COLOR

“WE WILL NOT HIDE. WE WILL NOT GO BACK INTO THE CLOSET.”

*- **Stuart Milk**, nephew of assassinated LGBT civil rights leader Harvey Milk*

thecentralvoice.ning.com

central VOICE

JULY 30
CENTRAL PA PRIDE FEST

FREE GUIDES INSIDE>

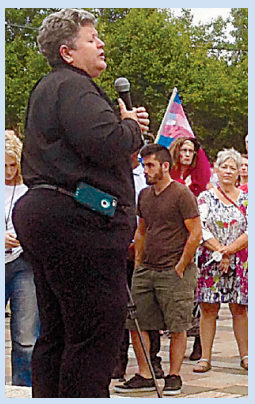
AUGUST 7
YORK EQUALITY FEST

FREE | SPECIAL EDITION | JULY | AUGUST 2016

York Community Vigil *Photo by Christopher Hundley*

Mid-State Stands with Orlando

People around the world gathered in response to the nightclub shooting at gay nightclub Pulse in Orlando. FL. On June 13, about 750 people rallied in Harrisburg to show their support for victims, friends and family. Multiple speakers, including Gov. Tom Wolf, expressed their grief and hopes. In York, nearly 500 gathered on June 16. *(more on page 11)*



Harrisburg Stands with Orlando
(top) Alder Health CEO Rosemary Browne and Gov. Wolf
(left) MCC of Harrisburg Pastor, Rev. Lori Hatch-Rivera

Photos by Alan Kennedy-Shaffer

State capital displays rainbow lights in support.

Photo by Bill Darrah

FEAR AND PRIDE

By William Burton

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you ask when the venue today known as Pride Festival of Central PA began, the answer depends on who you ask. That's why history and its artifacts - all the bits and pieces left behind in shoeboxes and cabinet drawers - is so important. Affiliated with History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA, William Burton has been sifting through the region's LGBT archive housed at Dickinson College, Carlisle.

Against the backdrop of the event known as Stonewall, Burton pieces together the legions of individuals and organizations, some still in operation, some now history, who collectively put Pride on the region's map. As is usually the case, no one individual or organization that creates change does so single-handedly. Some things do take a village.

By the late 1960's, after suffering decades of suppression, discrimination, harassment, and failed activism, a new outlook began to emerge in the gay and lesbian community nationwide.

The spirit of the culture of protest and self-determination that was sweeping the country influenced by the anti-war, civil rights, and women's movements was too pervasive for young gay men and lesbians to remain unaffected.

A firestorm was about to explode, and it did on the night of June 28, 1969. On that fateful night two detectives and a handful of officers from Manhattan's Sixth Precinct, decided to prosecute a routine raid at The Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in the heart of Greenwich Village in New York City. The Stonewall Inn was a prime target - it had been operating without a liquor license – and it was reputed to have ties with organized crime and the inn featured half naked “go-go” boys as entertainment. The patrons also tended to be young and non-white, and many were drag queens.

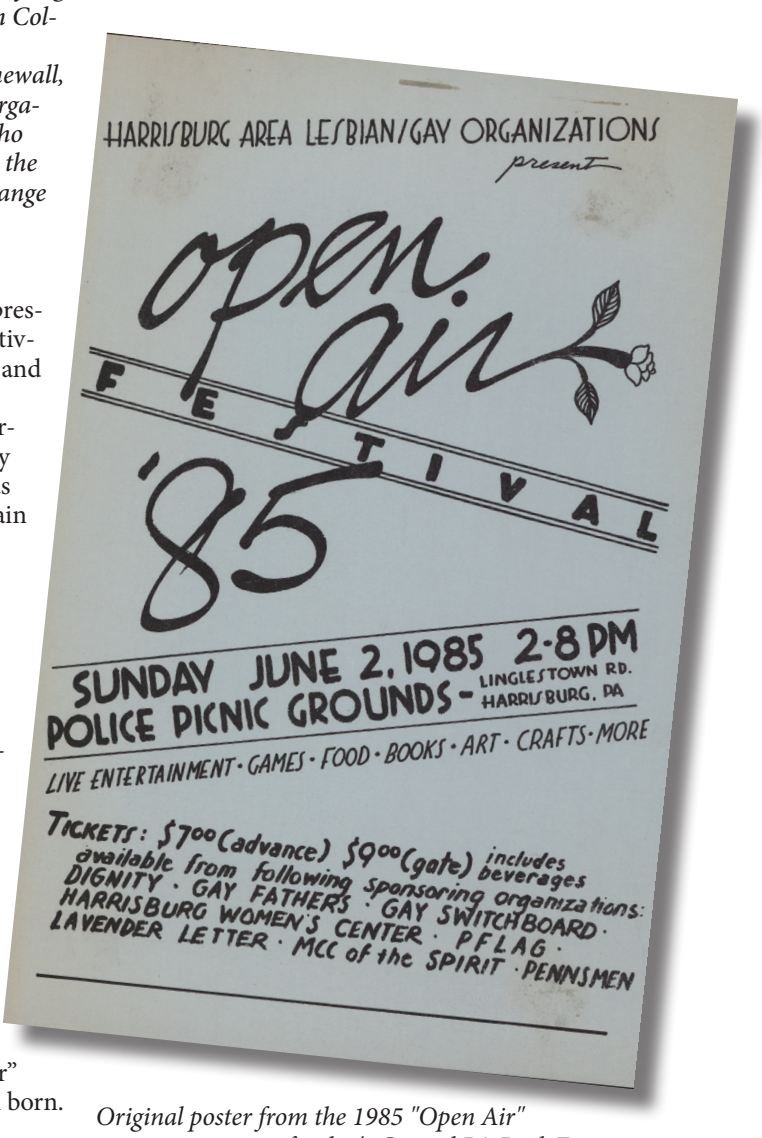
As the raid became more violent, a crowd began to gather on the street. As a policeman forcibly began to escort the last patron out of bar - a lesbian - the scene exploded and rioting began.

The crowds and riots continued into the next night, with over 2,000 protesters arriving to fight with police. Shouts of “Gay Power” and “Save our Sister” could be heard. The first-ever gay protest riot had been born.

Word spread quickly about the confrontation, launching the LGBT movement across the country. On the first anniversary of the riot, Gay Pride marches were held in Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, and New York,

Continued on page 7

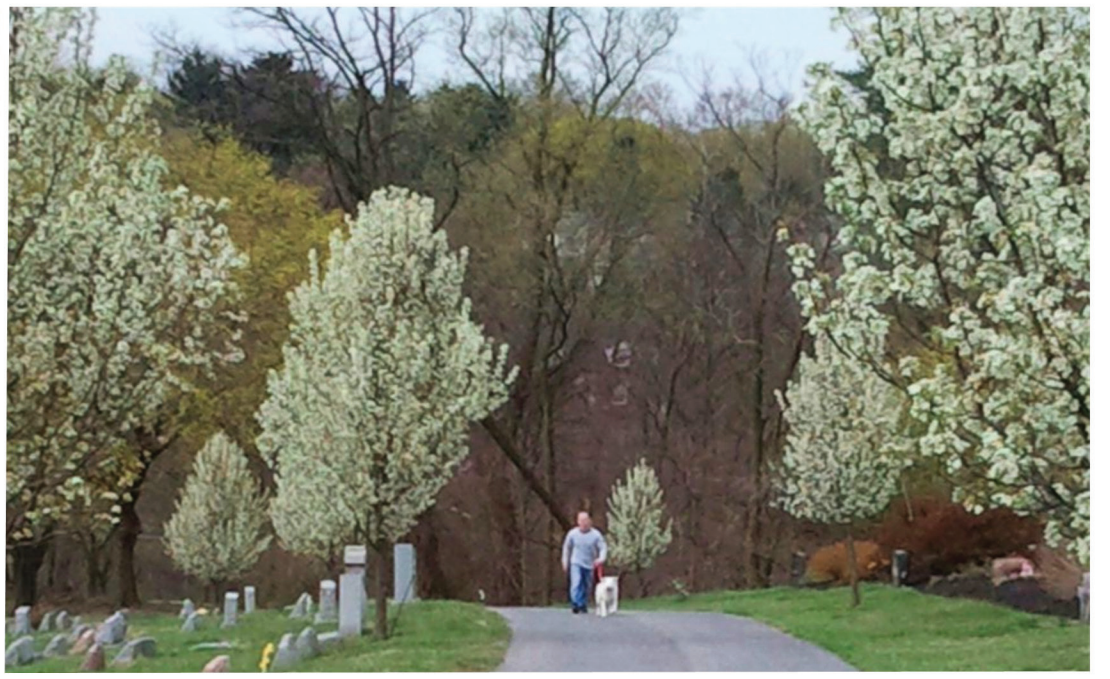
Pride was conceived to counteract the repression and fear that has historically targeted the gay community.

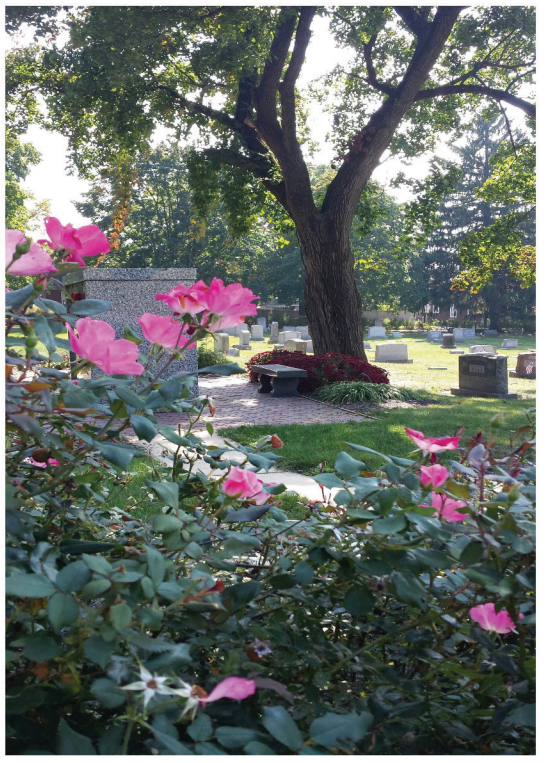

HARRISBURG AREA LESBIAN/GAY ORGANIZATIONS
present
open air
FESTIVAL
'85
SUNDAY JUNE 2, 1985 2-8 PM
POLICE PICNIC GROUNDS - LINGLESTOWN RD. HARRISBURG, PA
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT · GAMES · FOOD · BOOKS · ART · CRAFTS · MORE
TICKETS: $7.00 (advance) $9.00 (gate) includes beverages
available from following sponsoring organizations:
DIGNITY · GAY FATHERS · GAY SWITCHBOARD ·
HARRISBURG WOMEN'S CENTER · PFLAG ·
LAVENDER LETTER · MCC of the SPIRIT · PENNSMEN

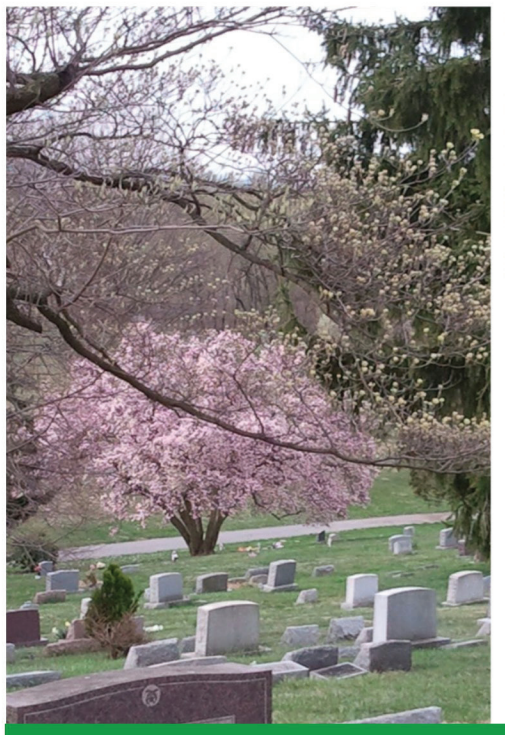
Original poster from the 1985 "Open Air" event - precurser of today's Central PA PrideFest.

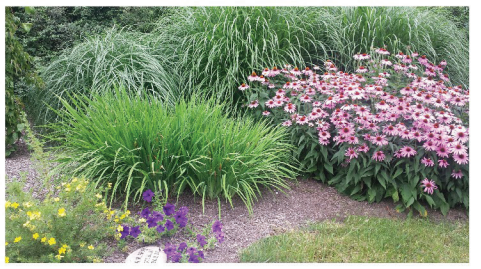
Image courtesy of LGBT Center of Central PA History Project, Archives and Special Collections, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA.

INSIDE ▸ REACTION TO ORLANDO MASSACRE pgs 6, 7, 11









PAXTANG CEMETERY

ESTABLISHED 1898

717-564-2110 ~ 401 Kelso St., Harrisburg, PA

What do you want your final resting place to look like?

Political Update

INTERNATIONAL

• Bangladesh LGBT Editor Hacked to Death

An editor of Bangladesh's first LGBT magazine was hacked to death April 25. The Dhaka Times reported that Xulhaz Mannan, who was an editor of Roopbaan, and a friend, Tanay Mojumdar, were killed inside an apartment in the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka. Media reports indicated that up to half a dozen young men claiming they worked for a courier company entered the building and attacked the men. Mannan, a prominent LGBT rights advocate in the South Asian country, worked at the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka. Secretary of State John Kerry urged Bangladesh's government to investigate the murders. Other reports indicated that an Islamist group wrote on its Facebook page that "it is high time to eliminate gays" from the country.

• Jerusalem Pride Attacker Convicted

An Israeli court on Tuesday convicted an ultra-Orthodox Jewish man of murder and attempted murder in connection with a 2015 attack on a Jerusalem Pride march. The Jerusalem Post reported that the Jerusalem District Court found Yishai Schlissel guilty of murder and six counts of attempted murder. Prosecutors allege that Schlissel stabbed Shira Banki, a 16-year-old teenager, to death and injured six others who were taking part in the Pride march on July 30, 2015. The attack took place less than a month after Schlissel completed a 10-year prison sentence in connection with the stabbing of three people during a Jerusalem Pride march in 2005.

• UK Issues Travel Advisory

The British Foreign Office issued an advisory warning travelers about anti-LGBT laws in North Carolina and Mississippi. "The U.S. is an extremely diverse society and attitudes towards LGBT people differ hugely across the country," reads the advisory. "LGBT travelers may be affected by legislation passed recently in the states of North Carolina and Mississippi." North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory last month signed House Bill 2, which prohibits transgender people from using public restrooms that are consistent with their gender identity and bans municipalities from enacting anti-LGBT nondiscrimination measures. Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant on April 5 signed House Bill 1523, a sweeping religious freedom measure that critics contend would allow discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. LGBT rights advocates and an increasing number of businesses have criticized McCrory and Bryant.

• Malaysian Raid of Transgender Fundraiser

A recent raid on a fundraiser organized by Malaysian transgender activists has once again put the country's abuses of LGBTQ human rights under the spotlight. As the US Congress contemplates passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement that includes Malaysia, advocates say that country continues to demonstrate why it should not be given preferential trade status with any country that believes in basic human rights. Pride at Work Executive Director, Jerame Davis, said: "We have said repeatedly that Malaysia, and its even more regressive neighbor Brunei, should not be included in the TPP. This incident is further proof that Malaysia will not voluntarily end the abuse and harassment of its LGBTQ citizens and that pinky promises and side agreements are not enough to ensure compliance with basic international human rights standards.

NATIONAL

• Openly-gay Appointed US Army Secretary

Eric Fanning became the first openly-gay US Secretary of the Army when the Senate unanimously confirmed his nomination by President Obama.

Fanning was previously undersecretary of the Air Force and chief of staff to Defense Secretary Ash Carter.

Fanning was confirmed by unanimous voice vote, eight months following his nomination and after resolution was reached regarding detainees from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Kansas Senator Pat Roberts explained how his concerns about detainees being released to his state had been resolved.

• Obama to Push for Transgender Rights

The White House is expected to insist that transgender students enjoy all the protections Title IX provides, reports Politico's Caitlin Emma.

The divisive and politically combustible issue of bathroom access for transgender individuals is about to become further inflamed, as the Obama administration is expected in coming weeks to aggressively reinforce its position that transgender student rights are fully protected under federal law. With the Justice Department already locking horns with North Carolina over the state's so-called bathroom bill, the administration plans to reaffirm its view that robust protections for transgender students are within the existing scope of Title IX, a federal law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in federally funded education programs and activities. Multiple agencies are expected to be involved.

• North Carolina School Allows Pepper Spray

A North Carolina school system, the Rowan-Salisbury Board of Education, has adopted a policy allowing high school students to carry pepper spray this fall, a policy one board member said may be useful for students who encounter transgender classmates in the bathroom. Board member Chuck Hughes said using the sprays was purely defensive, and he referenced the North Carolina law that limits LGBT rights, saying such sprays could help female students if they go to the bathroom and don't know who's coming in after them. The defensive spray clause won't affect students until it's published in the upcoming 2017-2018 student handbook.

• Missouri House Committee Votes Down Bill

The Missouri House Emerging Issues Committee voted down Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 39 – a measure that sought to enshrine state-sanctioned discrimination against LGBT people and their families into the Missouri Constitution. The extreme resolution would have led to a ballot measure that proposes to allow individuals, organizations, and businesses to use religion as a legal excuse to discriminate against LGBT people by broadly redefining the definition of religious organizations. Opposition to SJR 39 was overwhelming. More than 60 leading CEOs and business executives signed onto an open letter urging lawmakers to stop the proposal that would have extreme negative consequences for Missouri's economy, and numerous companies including Dow Chemical Company and Monsanto spoke out. In addition, SJR 39 has received widespread condemnation from fair-minded Missourians and civic leaders throughout the state, including Governor Jay Nixon, the St. Louis Post Dispatch, the St. Louis Regional Chamber. The St. Louis Regional Chamber said the proposal is "counter to MO values & will have negative economic consequences."

• OK Rep. Kern: Gays Worse Than Terrorists

In her retirement speech before the Oklahoma State House of Representatives, Rep. Sally Kern doubled down on her infamous 2008 comments equating "the homosexual agenda" to terrorism. She said advancements in LGBT rights have destroyed the nation, and are to blame for the ills of society. In the last two years she introduced 27 pieces of anti-gay legislation. All were defeated through efforts lead by legislators of both parties and advocacy organizations like Freedom Oklahoma. Those efforts became the brunt of a joke in her speech when she said: "How many of you are having a farewell party and a fundraiser thrown in your honor just because you are leaving? You know when I first heard about this I was a little bit offended. I mean just $35 for a ticket? I thought surely, if I'm their biggest opponent couldn't I be worth at least $50." She doubled down on her assertion that the gay community is worse than terrorists: "…yes in 2008 I did say that the 'homosexual agenda' is worse than terrorism. Now we all know that terrorism destroys lives, property and brings devastation. Just look at where we are today in our society… I didn't apologize in 2008 and I don't apologize today either because God's word has not changed. Things are worse today than they were then and I'm afraid they're going to just get worse."

• Tenn Gov. Signs Religious Principles Bill

Referred to by one observer as "Great Theocracy of Tennessee", that state's Governor Bill Haslam has signed a bill allowing therapists and counselors to refuse mental health treatment to patients based on the counselor's "sincerely held principles." Under this law, mental health professionals could discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) patients without any legal repercussions.

• DC Requires Policy to address LGBTQ

According to the Centers for Disease Control's Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2012, nearly 15% of the District of Columbia›s students ages 11-17 had contemplated suicide at some point, with statistics more than doubling for the LGBTQ population, ages 11-13. In an effort to reduce these alarming numbers, Washington. D.C. Council Member David Grosso worked with leading suicide prevention and crisis intervention nonprofit The Trevor Project, The D.C. Center, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and others to pass bill the Youth Suicide Prevention and School Climate Survey Amendment Act 23 of 2015. The bill requires DC schools to train on recognizing the warning signs and risk factors for youth suicide and implement best practices for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, and is the first law in the nation to require a school suicide policy to specifically address the needs of LGBTQ youth.

• 4th Circuit Deals Blow to "Bathroom" Provisions

Arthur S. Leonard reports that a three-judge panel of the Richmond-based US Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, by a 2-1 vote, has ruled that District Judge

Continued on page 23

Central VOICE
Central to your life.

PUBLISHER & EDITOR
Frank Pizzoli
PosOps@aol.com

ART DIRECTOR
Louise Sukle

CARTOONIST
Brad Gebhart

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Louie Marvin
Trum Simmons
Joanne Carroll
Lori Hatch-Rivera
Terry Drew Karanen

SALES MANAGER
Dave Brown 717-944-4628
davebrown@pressandjournal.com

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE
Steve Kozokas 717-856-3115
stevek@pressandjournal.com

NATIONAL ADVERTISING:
Rivendell Media
212-242-6863

PUBLISHED BY
PRESS AND JOURNAL INC.
20 South Union Street
Middletown, PA 17057
Subscriptions/Distribution 717-944-4628
www.pandjinc.com
info@pressandjournal.com

MEMBER:

Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association

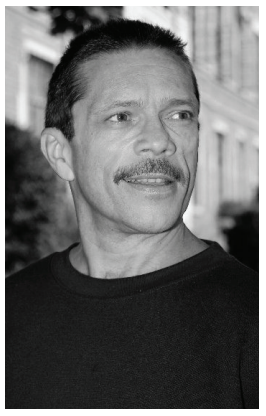
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: Central Voice is proud to publish the official program guides for

YORK Equality FEST

and

PRIDE FESTIVAL OF CENTRAL PA

Pride + Social Justice?



Frank Pizzoli

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter," said The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Have the region's Pride events broadened their missions to include other things that matter in addition to LGBT civil rights?

In a time of boards, bylaws, budgets and bios, and "I'm the first queer to" – fill in the blank - this is a refreshing move back to the community's organic origins. Orlando reminds us that we are all in the struggle for justice together.

York

From its enthusiastic start three years ago, York Equality Fest, Aug. 7, (see event guide in this issue) has had a multicultural, social justice feel about its mission. The 2016 theme is Stopping Violence, Ending Hatred. At 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. there is a Stop the Violence Rally! at the event. Organizers want to bring attention to violence against transgender individuals and the ongoing struggle of Black Lives Matter.

Lancaster

Lancaster's 10th Pride Festival & Celebration, held June 19, added an important social justice element to that county's events. Two community screenings of "From Selma to Stonewall: Are We There Yet?" were offered.

The film is a powerful new documentary that begins by looking at the Civil Rights Movement in Selma and the LGBT Rights Movement that was galvanized at the Stonewall riots, then delves into some of today's most explosive and discussed subjects: racial injustice, police brutality, transgender discrimination, LGBTQ homelessness and where those issues intersect.

Lancaster Pride also added a health and wellness twist to their event by making the venue a smoke-free event. Why? LGBT people smoke at rates over 50% higher than non-LGBT people, and up to 1/2 of people who smoke die early as a result. Organizers collaborated with the LGBT Community Center, also a smoke free venue, to add the "Your health matters" theme to the annual gathering.

Harrisburg

The 24th Annual Pride Festival of Central PA theme is "Unity It Begins with Us" (see Pride Guide insert in this issue). That means the various groups within our own LGBT community can be each other's worst enemies. We want the community-at-large to rally around us and support our basic civil rights. However, we can also wage silly fights among ourselves over what amounts to not much at all. As one faithful ally said: "The problem is you all just don't want to get along."

Thank you Pride Festival of Central PA for promoting the effort to heal wounds and move forward together toward success in all our endeavors across the region. That's leadership.

Social justice movements are messy. That's for sure. But all such movements stand on the shoulders of previous activists and advocates. And they still stumble.

Almost 50 years ago courageous individuals from the human parade – same as the tireless volunteers who organize the region's Pride events – came together at the intersections of the powerful and the powerless. It is on their shoulders that Intersectionalists of today stand.

Original Intersectionalists?

When King Jr. gave his "I have a dream" speech in 1968 at the Poor People's March on Washington, it was an effort to establish economic justice for all poor people in the US.

The Poor People's Campaign demanded economic and human rights for poor Americans of diverse backgrounds. After presenting an organized set of demands to Congress and executive agencies, participants set up a 3,000-person tent city on the Washington Mall, where they stayed for six weeks.

The Poor People's Campaign was motivated by a desire for economic justice: the idea that all people should have what they need to live. King shifted his focus to these issues after observing that gains in civil rights had not improved the material conditions of life for many African Americans. The Campaign was a multiracial effort - including African-Americans, whites, Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Native Americans - aimed at alleviating poverty regardless of race. In other words, the effort was Intersectional.

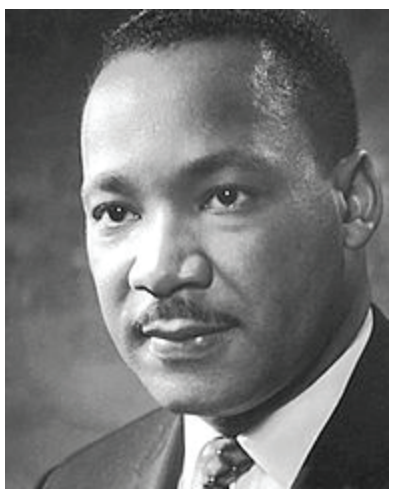
Harrisburg 7

The Harrisburg Seven were a group of religious anti-war activists, led by Philip Berrigan, charged in 1971 in a failed conspiracy case in the US District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, located at Harrisburg. The "Seven" were Berrigan, Sister Elizabeth McAlister, Rev. Neil McLaughlin, Rev. Joseph Wenderoth, Eqbal Ahmad, Anthony Scoblick, and Mary Cain Scoblick.

In 1970, the group attracted government attention when Berrigan, then imprisoned, and McAlister were caught trading letters that alluded to kidnapping National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger and blowing up steam tunnels. The trial was covered by The Harrisburg Independent Press (where I wrote in 1975 about migrant workers in central Pennsylvania) and earlier, in 1972, had interviewed Sister Elizabeth McAlister for my college newspaper.

The Harrisburg 7 represent the original Intersectionalists too. On May 17, 1968, six weeks after King's murder and the outbreak of riots in dozens of cities, Daniel and Philip Berrigan led seven others to enter a Catonsville, MD Knights of Columbus building where the local draft board had offices. In front of astonished clerks, they seized hundreds of draft records, carried them down to the parking lot and set them on fire with homemade napalm.

Reporters alerted in advance were given a statement that said in part, "We destroy these draft records not only because they exploit our young men but because they represent misplaced power concentrated in the ruling class of America." There actions were for all powerless people at the intersection of life.



On May 9, in her press conference remarks advising North Carolina to stop discrimination against transgender individuals, US Attorney General Loretta said: "This is not the first time that we have seen discriminatory responses to historic moments of progress for our nation. We saw it in the Jim Crow laws that followed the Emancipation Proclamation. We saw it in fierce and widespread resistance to Brown v. Board of Education. And we saw it in the proliferation of state bans on same-sex unions intended to stifle any hope that gay and lesbian Americans might one day be afforded the right to marry."

Perhaps by including social justice and renewed calls for unity within the region's LGBT community our region's Pride events have turned the corner at the intersection of social justice and pride for all.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Rev. Daniel J. Berrigan

US Attorney General Loretta Lynch

The Other Side of the Story

By Trum Simmons, Columnist "Ally In The Academy"

In May, U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch spoke about the reasons the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division filed suit against North Carolina's infamous House Bill 2 (HB2), which, among other things, required transgender people to use public restrooms consistent with their sex assigned at birth.

In Lynch's speech she made the case that HB2 violated federal civil rights laws. She said we had seen discriminatory responses to moments of progress before, "in the Jim Crow laws that followed Emancipation, the separate-but-equal laws that were addressed by the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision … and the proliferation of state bans on same-sex unions."

She called to our attention the ideals that all Americans should know and support, such as "our national virtues of diversity, compassion and open-mindedness." She continued, "This law provides no benefit to society—all it does is harm innocent Americans," and she urged us to "learn from our history and avoid repeating the mistakes of the past."

"What we must not do," Lynch added, "is turn on our neighbors, our family members, our fellow Americans, for something they cannot control, and deny what makes them human."

Lynch didn't use the word, but what she was talking about was the experience minorities in the United States have had as being the Other. Ever since the first Europeans came to the Americas and encountered Native Americans, early settlers and then the U.S government itself set about to marginalize and even eliminate people who were the Other.

And why is it that people in America—indeed, people around the world—have such problems with the Other?

Lynch said it has to do with our fear of the unknown, and that certainly is part of it. As psychologist Gordon Allport put it, "Prejudice is being down on somebody you're not up on."

The majority in any society is conversant with its own look and feel, with its values and institutions. But when confronted with people who don't look like the majority, who differ on matters of race, religion, cultural tradition—you name it—it often becomes another story.

While at HACC, I taught American literature, and one of my textbooks included "The Interesting Narrative of The Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavas Vassa, the African." What an eye-opener his story is.

Equiano arrived in the New World in 1756 after being brought from Nigeria in a slave ship. Equiano tells of his terror when he first saw the ship that would carry him across the sea, and then says the white crew terrified him, what with their different complexions, their long hair and the language they spoke. "I was now persuaded that I had gotten into a world of bad spirits."

He even asked his fellow Africans "if we were not to be eaten by those white men with horrible looks, red faces, and long hair." Being the Other worked the other way that time, and in this case Equiano would learn that in America the white Other was indeed to be feared.

Have you read Thomas Jefferson's view of Native Americans and blacks in his Notes on the State of Virginia? Have you read and heard some of the things white Americans said openly about their black brothers and sisters in the first half of the 20th century?

Have you heard racist, sexist, heterosexist and other such comments as you travel about our beloved south-central Pennsylvania? Have you been in a social setting where straight, heterosexual men and women have shaken their heads over their transgender brothers' and sisters' fight for equality and safety in their daily lives?

"This law provides no benefit to society—all it does is harm innocent Americans."

U.S.Attorney General Loretta Lynch

I must mention the 2016 presidential campaign too. I thought I might be able to avoid talking about Donald Trump, but how can we ignore a man who epitomizes the majority fear of, not to mention ridicule of, the minority?

I'm talking majority in terms of Trump's being a white male member and beneficiary of the U.S. capitalist system and of our country's celebrity culture, not in terms of his representing anyone who is not in the multi-millionaire, billionaire (perhaps) class.

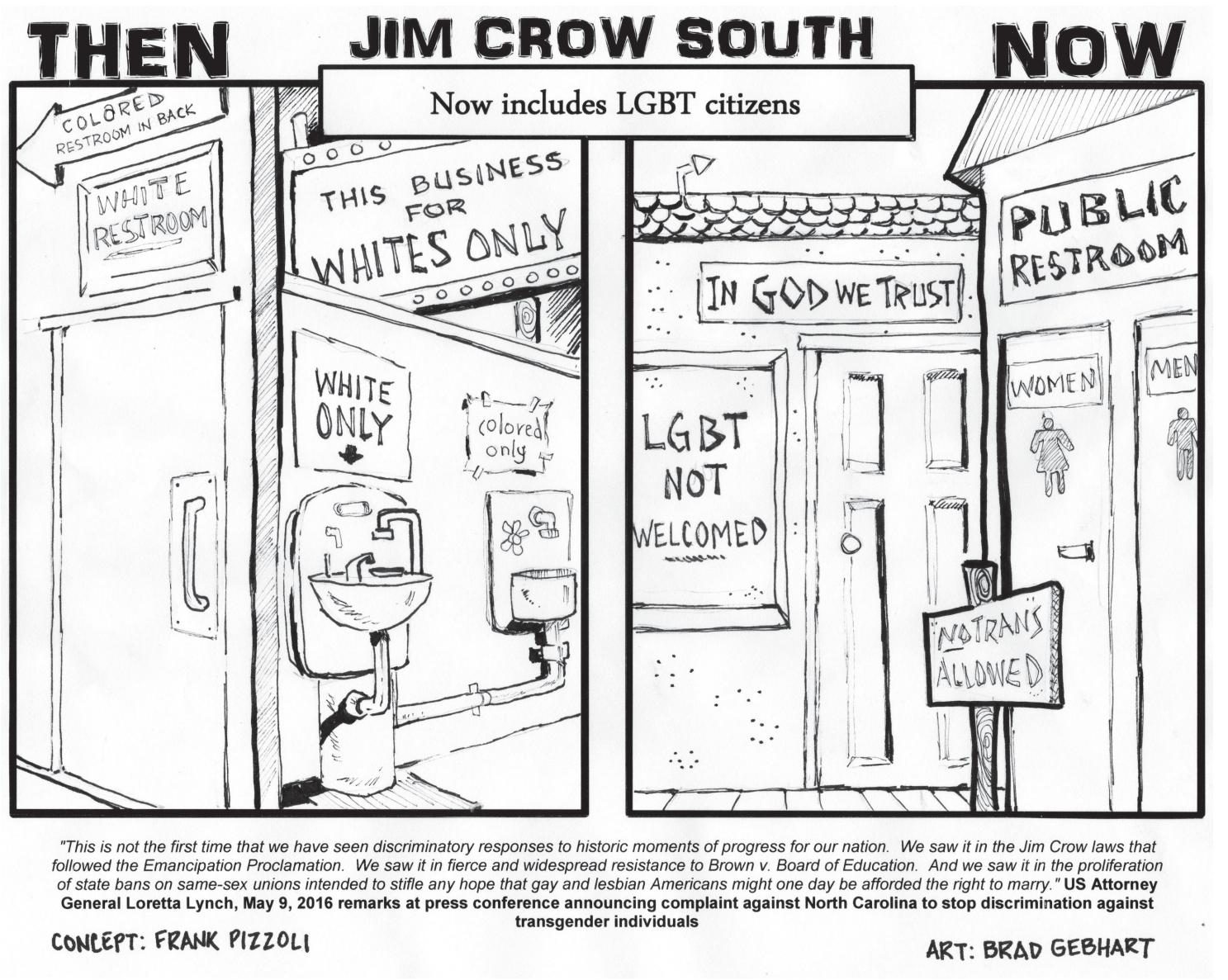
Outrageous, embarrassing, depressing and any other adjective you can come up with, but here in 2016 is the Republican party's nominee for the presidency of the United States of America who talks about being a uniter while trashing and thrashing anyone and everyone who doesn't look, act or speak like him.

The fact that millions of people voted for Trump in the primaries is also a profound problem. Yes, many voted on the economic issues faced by the middle class, but we know too many voted because they liked what he said about the Other. Some of the "truth" that Trump spoke brought out supporters who agreed with his "truth."

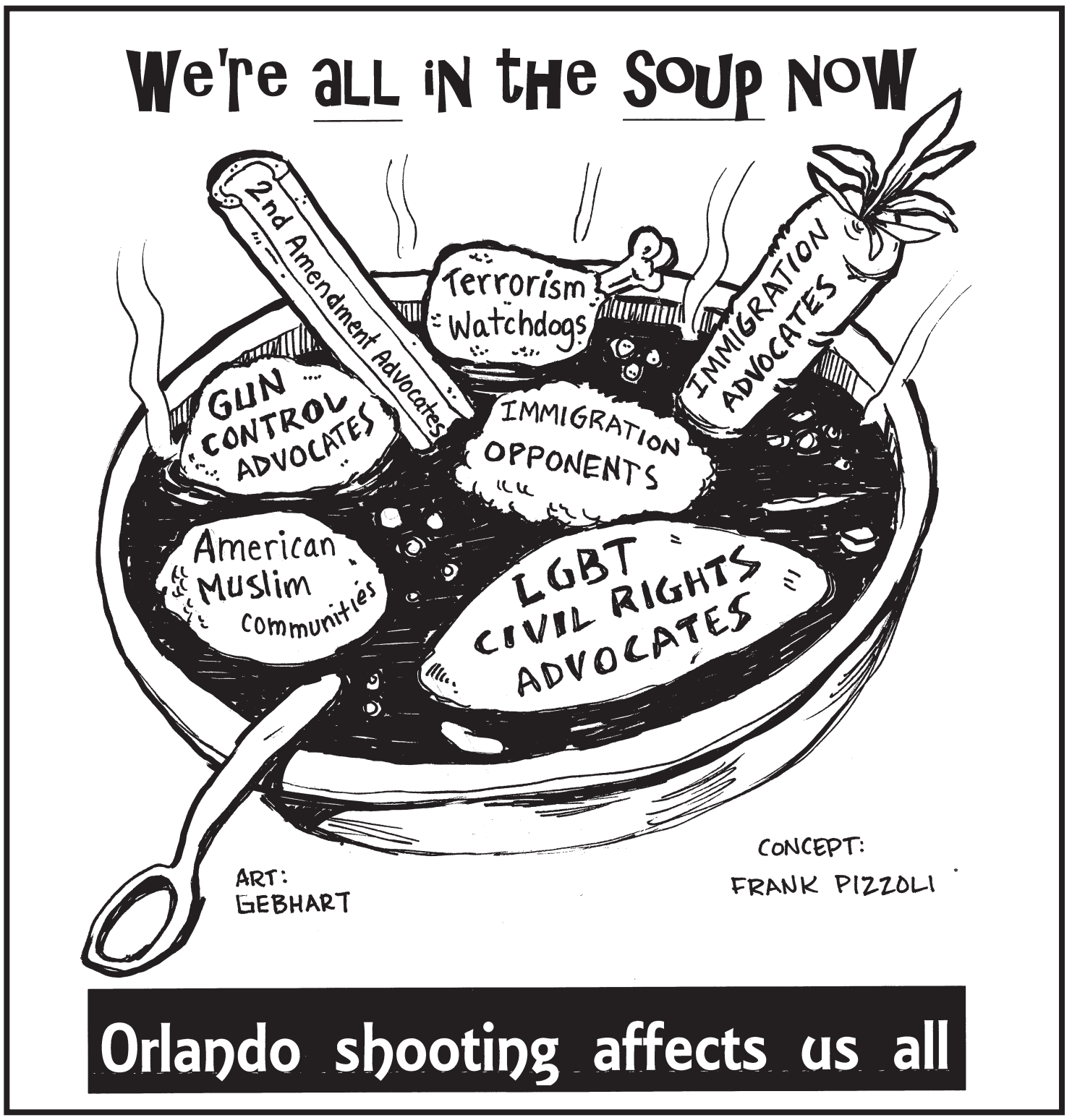
I think Loretta Lynch was absolutely on target in comparing the struggles of the LGBTQ communities with those of African-Americans and other minority groups. You can make a case for differences in experience and history, but all minority groups in America share the problem of being viewed as the Other.

We won't solve our problems through legal means alone. The answer of course is education—education of both the heart and the head. Attorney General Lynch gave us a history lesson when she filed that lawsuit, but I often wonder if the majority of majority Americans are learning that lesson.

Trum Simmons is professor emeritus of English and advisor emeritus to HACC Allies.



"This is not the first time that we have seen discriminatory responses to historic moments of progress for our nation. We saw it in the Jim Crow laws that followed the Emancipation Proclamation. We saw it in fierce and widespread resistance to Brown v. Board of Education. And we saw it in the proliferation of state bans on same-sex unions intended to stifle any hope that gay and lesbian Americans might one day be afforded the right to marry." **US Attorney General Loretta Lynch, May 9, 2016 remarks at press conference announcing complaint against North Carolina to stop discrimination against transgender individuals**



Day of Action Produces Results

Maura Keisling

June 22nd, Equality PA organized A Day of Action in the Capitol rotunda. Later that day, the Senate Urban Affairs Committee voted to move LBGT civil rights legislation out of their committee. Maura Keisling, former Susquehanna Township resident, now executive director of the National Center for Transgender Rights, addressed the gathering. "I grew up about two miles from here and I always wondered, would there be a place in the world for me," she said, calling for action by the legislature.

REACTION:

ORLANDO SHOOTER NOT MUSLIM
"During my holy month of Ramadan, to even utter a harsh or unkind word would corrupt my fast. This man was not Muslim. What he did, that is not my faith. When I heard about the shooting, I called my LGBT friends and said 'What can I do for you? I am sorry.' You know what they did? Gave me the biggest hugs. Said 'What can we also do for you?' THESE people are my brothers and sisters. My LGBT friends are the brothers and sisters of everyone. They know suffering. They know oppression. And still they laugh and smile and show kindness like no other people. They are holy to me. That is holy. That is Allah."
*-**Samia Malik**, local Muslim community leader, who spoke at Harrisburg We Stand with Orlando Rally June 13*

UNITY, IT BEGINS WITH US
"While we have made amazing progress advancing the cause of equality and inclusion for the LGBT community, the Orlando shooting reminds us we still have work to do. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the City of Orlando and the owners and patrons of Pulse Nightclub. Please accept our deepest condolences to those families who lost loved ones in this senseless act. We want to send our thoughts and prayers to those injured during the attack. We also want to acknowledge all those who came to the aid of the victims.
Please, in the spirit of this year's Pride theme – Unity, It Begins with Us - let's all come together in showing our love and support for those in our community near and far."
*-**Brad Martin**, President, Central PA Pride Festival*

MORAL ARC
"Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said this at a Methodist student conference in Lincoln Nebraska in 1964: 'We cannot change the hearts of men but we can change the laws, and when we change the laws, we can change the habits of men, and when we change the habits of men, only then can we change the hearts of men!' This is what we should remember as we work toward passage of the Pennsylvania Fairness Act. Theodore Parker, a 19th century preacher and abolitionist said:
'The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice.'
If we compare the moral arc to a long metal rod, the only way we get it to bend is by bringing heat and pressure to the center of it."
*-**Joanne Carroll**, President, TransCentralPA*

SOLIDARITY
"What happened at the Pulse Nightclub should shake us out of our complacency and force us to step forward in solidarity with our LGBT brothers and sisters. As allies we must offer our love, support, voices and resources. This terrorist attack demands nothing less."
*-**Kathleen Lucas,** York Area Coordinator, Amnesty International USA*

BRAVELY LIVING THEIR TRUTH
"Equality Fest honors and celebrates the lives of the individuals who were killed because they were bravely living their truth. We invite the York Community to come together in solidarity and in love."
***Carla Christopher,** President of Equality Fest*

NO
"We
a pe
-An

FEAR AND PRIDE

No signs marked the turn-off to the first Open Air Festival in 1985. Pink helium balloons served as the only marker for the entrance because organizers recognized people would be afraid to attend a openly "gay pride" celebration in the conservative Harrisburg area.

Continued from page one

with total participation in these cities exceeding 500,000. Gay Pride celebrations would soon spread across the nation and the globe, celebrating the event that launched the LGBT revolution and the fight for equal rights for gay people.

Central PA

It would take some time for Central Pennsylvania to establish its own Gay Pride celebration.

In 1976, various groups from the region, such as Dignity/Central PA, Gay Community Services, and Gays United Lancaster marched under the banner of the PA Rural Gay Caucus in Philadelphia's Gay Pride Parade. But Philadelphia suspended their parades during the years of 1977 through 1987.

In 1984, several local organizations including Dignity/Central PA, Gay Volleyball, the Pennsmen and Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit, decided to organize their own gay pride celebration in Harrisburg. Thinking that people might be afraid to attend a "gay pride" celebration in the culturally conservative area of Harrisburg, they decided to name the event the Open Air Festival. No sign to mark the turn off. Just pink helium balloons served as the "marker" for the entrance for the festival.

These Open Air Festival events were held from 1985 through 1987 at the Police Athletic Grounds on Linglestown Road in Susquehanna Township, outside of Harrisburg. (It is ironic that the first Gay Festival would be held on Police Grounds, given the role the NYC police played in the Stonewall Riots.)

The last event called Open Air was held at a park in Linglestown in 1987. Over the course of these events, there was food, beverages, a craft fair, rainbow flags, and live entertainment. The few hundred people that attended, socialized, had picnics, and played volleyball.

After a year lapsed, in 1989, the event took a different turn when Nikki Knerr, a local business woman, renamed the event the Unity Festival. The event became a fundraiser for the various AIDS organizations in the central Pennsylvania area. The festival was first held on the grounds of Knerr's home in Mechanicsburg.

In its second year, Knerr's event moved to Ski Roundtop, where it was held until 1991. The Unity Festival charged admission, still providing food, beverages, craft fairs, and socializing like its antecedent Open Air Festival enjoyed. The idea to charge admission was discussed - pro and con, all points of view welcome. Why? Because the feeling at the time was that all gay and lesbian people were welcome to attend, regardless of ability to pay. This important discussion saw the admission price debated go from $1 to $5.

Another significant change was the improvement in entertainment. Professionals were now appearing, such as local songster Bobbi Carmitchell and other nationally known gay artists. Attendance soared to 1,500 people, with the expansion of events and talent aided by Knerr's focus on making the event a totally inclusive festival reflective of the LGBT community.

In 1992, the event changed again when Dan Miller, Patrick Wallen, and Barry Loveland, local businessmen and community activists, took over. The major change these three invoked was re-naming the event as the Gay and Lesbian Pride Festival of Central PA. Miller, Wallen, and Loveland all felt that it was time to place "Gay and Lesbian" in the title of the celebration.

The trio dropped the admission fee and sought out local sponsors to fund the event. By increasing the number of food and beverage vendors, and enhancing the entertainment, the attendance began to increase.

The first event under this new name was held at Reservoir Park in Harrisburg.

In 1993, the Community Action Council was formed (an organization formed by Miller, Wallen, Loveland and others in the community to serve as a steering committee for the event). A Pride Concert was also held that year at the State Museum of PA auditorium with performances by singer/songwriter Nancy Day and the acapella group, the Flirtations.

The Pride Festival was taken over in 1994 by the Pride Coalition of Central PA, when it was held for the last time at Reservoir Park. At this time, "Gay and Lesbian" was dropped from the title, and the event was from then on known as the Pride Festival of Central PA.

The celebration then moved under the auspices of the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg for several years. The Festival moved to the campus of Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) for two years. But according to Dr. Eric Selvey, former committee chairman of the Pride Festival in 1996 and 1997, some HACC board members were uncomfortable with the festival being held on the campus of a college, because several minor protests were occurring.

In 1998, Tina Manoogian-King, then director of the Parks and Recreation Department for the City of Harrisburg, approached Selvey about moving the festival back to the City of Harrisburg. It was at this juncture that the festival finally relocated to Riverfront Park where it has been held ever since.

For two or three years, a parade was held in conjunction with the festival, with marchers, floats and vehicles parading along Front Street from North Street to Shipoke. Today, the event remains as the Pride Festival, with attendance having reached 5,000 people, continuing the great celebration of LGBT pride and the fight for equality in the region.

Today there are Pride celebrations in Lancaster and York. Change does take a village.

- Lancaster Pride, Sun., June 19, Noon -6 p.m., Binn's Park, Lancaster
- Pride Festival of Central PA, Sat., July 30, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Riverfront Park, Harrisburg
- York Equality Fest, Sun., Aug. 7, Noon - 6 p.m., Penn Park, York

William Burton is currently working with the History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA, researching and writing about Gay History. He received his Bachelor's and Master's Degree in History from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, with a concentration in Gay History. He last wrote for CV on the historical inaccuracies in Gus Van Zant's recent film "Stonewall".

"REACTION:

*"We will not hide. We will not go back into the closet," **Stuart Milk**, far left, nephew of assassinated LGBT civil rights leader Harvey Milk, told Central Voice on June 12 when he led 300 people to a Key West ocean pier where he lovingly placed a white, flowered wreath into the water in solidarity with the 49 people killed the night before in Orlando gay nightclub Pulse. June 12 was the fifth and culminating day of the island's gay pride festivities that ended with a parade.*

Central Voice photo

FIGHT ON
"We are not going to stop fighting for our civil rights."
*-Hollywood celebrity **Bruce Vilanch** told Central Voice June 12 in Key West where MCed festivities for the island's 5-day Pride Celebration.*

Governor Tom Wolf @GovernorTomWolf · 17h
PA is flying the Pride flag over our State Capitol to honor Orlando victims & stand with the LGBT community.

-Tweet from Gov. Tom Wolf

"My administration, including the Pennsylvania State Police and Office of Homeland Security, is monitoring the situation and will respond swiftly to any threats to Pennsylvania."
*-**Gov. Tom Wolf***

BUILD INCLUSIVE SOCIETY
"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who lost their lives in Orlando. This horrifying tragedy begs the questions: how do we eliminate the kind of hatred and fear that gave rise to it and build a more inclusive society? How do we ensure that this kind of tragedy never happens in York County, or anywhere else?
*-**Chris Hundley,** York Progressives Steering Committee Member*

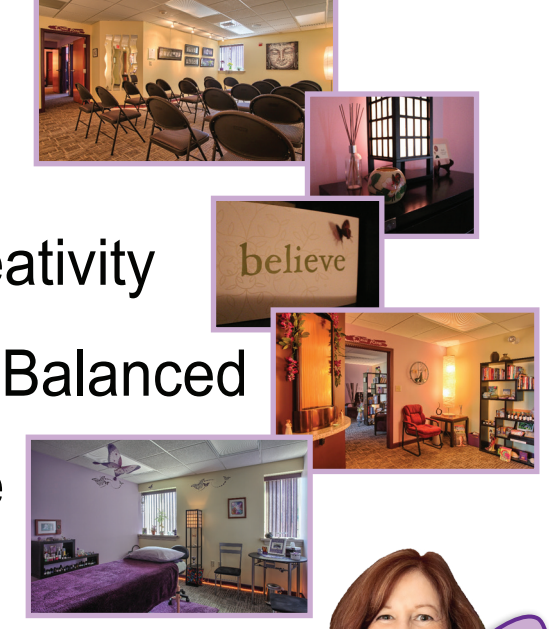
NO CELEBRATION
"We woke up looking forward to a parade and found a massacre."
*-**Anonymous Key West traveler***

ACCESS TO GUNS
"Are we going to take the painfully obvious commonsense steps and make sure terrorists can't get guns, or are we going to bow down to the NRA?"
*-**Sen. Chuck Schumer** (D., N.Y.)*

TIME FOR ACTION
"If you have proven you will commit criminal acts based on hate, you absolutely should not have access to a gun. It is time we as members of Congress do something."
*-**Sen. Robert P. Casey Jr.** (D., Pa.)*

Reiki by Rickie
ReikiSpace & Learning Place
SESSIONS-CLASSES-WORKSHOPS-EVENTS

-Relaxing
-Energizing
-Inspires Creativity
-Keeps You Balanced
-Inner Peace



靈氣

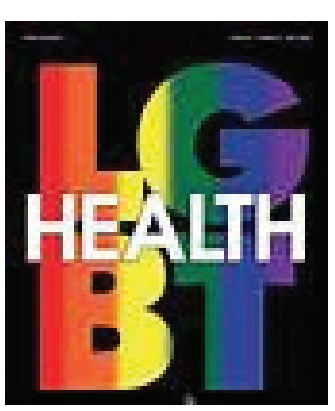
HARRISBURG MAGAZINE Readers' Choice 2015 ALTERNATIVE MEDICAL SPECIALIST

717.599.2299
ReikiByRickie.com

Sturbridge Business Park, 2793 Old Post Road, Suite 10, HBG, PA 17110

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Bradbury-Sullivan Community Center: Business Award & Healthy Habits



Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center is the recent recipient of a business award and is launching a healthy habits program.

The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce has selected Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center as the recipient of their 2016 LGBT Business of the Year Award.

The award was one of eight awards the chamber presented June 14 at Excellence in Business Awards Reception. The Excellence in Business Awards are presented to companies which exemplify excellence in business and their demonstrated commitment to quality, leadership, marketing, training, and development.

Adrian Shanker, center executive director, said, "We are proud to be recognized for our business practices, our commitment to the community we serve, and our leadership in the Lehigh Valley."

The center also recently launched two LGBT health and wellness programs to help reduce LGBT health disparities in the Lehigh Valley. The programs focus on Diabetes Prevention and a Fear of Falling program called "Matter of Balance" to reduce injury and social isolation among LGBT older adults. The programs are supported by Pennsylvania Department of Health and Tobacco Free Northeast PA. Both programs are lead by trained facilitators.

The new programs are in addition to the center's existing tobacco prevention program, gynecological cancer awareness efforts, and HIV/STI testing.

According to a 2015 LGBT Wellness Needs Assessment, administered by Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, 63.7% of LGBT community members in the Greater Lehigh Valley say they are interested in healthy eating strategies and 62.7% say they are interested in active living strategies. These programs are intended to respond to the LGBT health and wellness needs in the Lehigh Valley.

Info: www.bradburysullivancenter.org

ALL FOR HEALTH
Let's remember that being healthy isn't a goal, it's a lifestyle.
So let's run a little faster, eat a little better, sleep a little longer, aim a little higher, love a little more, and day by day, get a little happier. And let's take pride in our health. Highmark is proud to support the LGBTQ community. Let's do it all for health.
HIGHMARK
Highmark Blue Shield is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.
AllforHealth.com

PA Insurance Commissioner Prohibits Gender Identity Discrimination

Pennsylvania's Insurance Commissioner Teresa Miller released guidance prohibiting discrimination by health insurance companies on the basis of gender identity. Notice 2016-05 explicitly prohibits private health insurance plans regulated by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department from denying coverage for medically necessary health care for transgender Pennsylvanians.

The notice specifically states that state-regulated private health insurance "will not contain a categorical exclusion of coverage for all health services related to gender transition" and "will affirmatively provide that medically necessary covered services will be available to a policyholder regardless of their gender identity." In addition, all policies will have to include a prominent notice that informs Pennsylvanians about these new nondiscrimination protections.

In prohibiting discrimination against transgender Pennsylvanians, the guidance cites state nondiscrimination laws, such as the Pennsylvania Unfair Insurance Practices Act, and a proposed rule under the Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act that is expected to prohibit transgender exclusions. These protections apply broadly to private health insurance for individuals and families, small employers, and large employers whose coverage is regulated by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department.

Ted Martin, Equality PA executive director said, "It's a tremendous act of support from Commissioner Miller to release this guidance, and Governor Wolf's continued support for LGBT people is putting Pennsylvania on the map"

Drea Baldini is a small business owner and transgender woman who lives in Philadelphia. "I'm so grateful towards Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner Teresa Miller, as well as for Governor Wolf for their work to address health disparities for people like me. As a transgender woman, knowing that I can receive equal and inclusive health coverage is essential to knowing I will be healthy well into the future."

With the issuance of this guidance, Pennsylvania has become the 17th state (plus DC) to ban transgender exclusions. Notice 2016-05 also follows a recent decision to lift Medicare's previous ban on covering transgender-inclusive health care as well as a recent proposed rule from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that, once finalized, is expected to prohibit most transgender exclusions nationwide.

Alder Health Services

Health services and programs dedicated to the unique needs of South Central Pennsylvania's LGBT community.

- Mental Health Services
- Primary Care
- HIV/AIDS Services
- Screenings and Testing
- Health Education

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Harrisburg: (717) 233-7190
Lancaster: (717) 509-6349
www.AlderHealth.org

Alder Health Services is dedicated to improving the health of individuals living with HIV/AIDS, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in South Central Pennsylvania. The organization provides residents of the community with: • HIV/AIDS Services and Prevention Programming • Primary Medical Care • Mental Health Counseling Services • STD Screening and Treatment • HIV Testing • Community Health Education Forums and Workshops.

A Health & Wellness Campaign *for Harrisburg.*

For more infomariton like us on Facebook: /OptinforLifePA

COLOR

Activist Lingo

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

By Frank Pizzoli

Check headlines and you find college groups calling attention to *"micro-aggressions."* Campus newspapers feature stories about *"appropriations"* that are insulting to a specific group. And then there's *"pinkwashing."* Not a laundry term. The words and phrases represent activist lingo.

What do the words mean?

The LGBT Community and *Central Voice* hosted a discussion at the eighth Gay Student Alliance Conference, held annually since 2008 and attracting hundreds of high school and college students over the years. The event is sponsored by the Harrisburg-based LGBT community center.

Each of the six participating students was asked to speak about personal experiences.

Micro-aggressions

"I guess I'll start out," Katelyn said when our discussion began with the question: What is a "micro-aggression? "It means something small, not always noticed at the moment, but something that does hurt when you think about it later," she said.

Jayme observed that micro-aggressions are often represented by "subliminal" meanings that words and body language impart during human interactions. "Because they are often below the surface we don't recognize a micro-aggression," she said.

When pressed for specific examples Cecilia said, "once I wore a 'Get yourself tested' T-shirt and people looked at me like I had sexually transmitted disease." She thought? "their facial expressions were nonverbally saying something negative" about her. Cecilia did not have an STD. She was wearing a T-shirt in order to bring awareness to the need for sexual health.

Jayne offered a less complicated example.

"I look very different with my baseball cap on and with it off," she said. Off came the cap and out bounced long chestnut hued hair. "I definitely have two distinct looks that sometimes people just don't know what to do with," Jayne said.

The t-shirt and baseball cap examples come from campus experiences. What about the workplace?

"I think in an older work force micro-aggressions can be more prevalent," Becka opined, a heterosexual ally of the LGBT community. "We all have to educate ourselves about differences."

"It's important to establish your own boundaries," Jaden said. "You let others see what you want them to see," he explained. As an employee "it all depends on the relationship you are building," he said. "My summer part-time job working with guys who don't like homosexuals is different than starting my 'Dream Job,'" he explained. "Engage and test the waters," he said.

Appropriation

What is an "appropriation? In academic terms, an appropriation occurs when an individual or group takes something that is not derived from their own experience and uses it, enjoys it, but does acknowledge its origins or excludes its originators from their own lives.

The notion is not new. For example, in 1957 Norman Mailer wrote "The White Negro" for Esquire magazine in which he wrote about the increasing appropriation of black mannerisms by white youth. His premise was the Black Americans had been living outside the confines of mainstream society for two centuries in the existential state of "the enormous present". When in the 1950s white youth became disillusioned with social norms, they searched for "authenticity" and brewed the "hipster" and "Beat culture". In other words, they "appropriated what they felt was of value from African-American social culture.

There was plenty of racism in Mailer's article and celebrated African-American author James Baldwin tried to work with Mailer tried to work with on a deeper understanding of African-Americans. Baldwin hated the article, deeming it a white fantasy of black life. He countered with an article in the same magazine called "A Black Boy Looks at A White Boy," which he calle a "love letter" to Mailer. Like back then, "hipster" is once again among white youth.

How do appropriations affect participants?

When it comes to appropriations Cecelia thinks there is a difference between celebrating a culture and making fun of it. "We all need to own what we do with clothing and culture, she explains. She also thinks we should keep in mind is that "everything does not have to be the same".

Jaime said on her campus "Change is slow. I don't think many people there really know the difference between honoring a culture different than your own and making fun of it because it's different."

Important

What's most important to you?

"I have a reverence for life, all life," Cecelia said, adding that it included the value of environmentally safe clothing.

"Being happy in my daily life, that's what's most important to me," Jaden shared.

"Expressing the value of all life's relationships," Jayme said.

"Learning and educating others, especially LGBT allies," Becka said.

"Acting respectfully towards others," Katelyn said.

"Understanding where we all overlap in life," Jaime concluded.

The LGBT Community and Central Voice hosted a discussion at the eighth Gay Student Alliance Conference held at Dickinson College, Carlisle. From left: Jaime, Cecelia, Jaden, Jayme, Katelyn, and Becka.

Samia Malik, local Muslim community leader, speaks out

By Central Voice

Samia Malik, local Muslim community leader, felt compelled to speak out on June 13 when Harrisburg's LGBT Community Center held a We Stand with Orlando vigil outside Broad Street Market. Volunteers had prepared 520 candles, "and we quickly ran out," says center executive director Louie Marven. "We estimate that about 750 people attended the vigil," he says.

CV: You are understanding and supportive of LGBT people. Is this rare in the Muslim community?

SM: I am in support of Human Rights for each and every living being including the LGBTQ community. No it is not rare at all. You can google the condemnation of all the Major Imams of all factions.

CV: We have reported on the killing of LGBT people in Muslim countries. Is this an official Muslim doctrine of faith or a belief of only some Muslims?

SM: Undoubtable the 99.9% of Muslims do not believe in the killing of the LGBT communities. ISIL or ISIS, whatever they call themselves, have taken lives of all kinds of people including the LGBTQ community. The majority of whom ISIS has killed and terrorized is the Muslim community.

Fifth from left, Samia Malik, local Muslim community leader, felt compelled to speak out.

Photo by Alan Kennedy-Shaffer

Hbg. Stands with Orlando

750 gather at Broad Street Market in Harrisburg.

Photo by Andrea Glass

York Stands with Orlando

The community filled Cheery Lane Park June 16 when Amnesty International, Equality Fest, and York Progressives held a York Stands with Orlando Community Vigil. The event honoring those killed in Orlando's Pulse nightclub massacre also included music, visual arts, reflection, and a call to action.

Top Photo by Kevin Schreiber , Bottom Photo by Christopher Hundley

Allentown Stands with Orlando

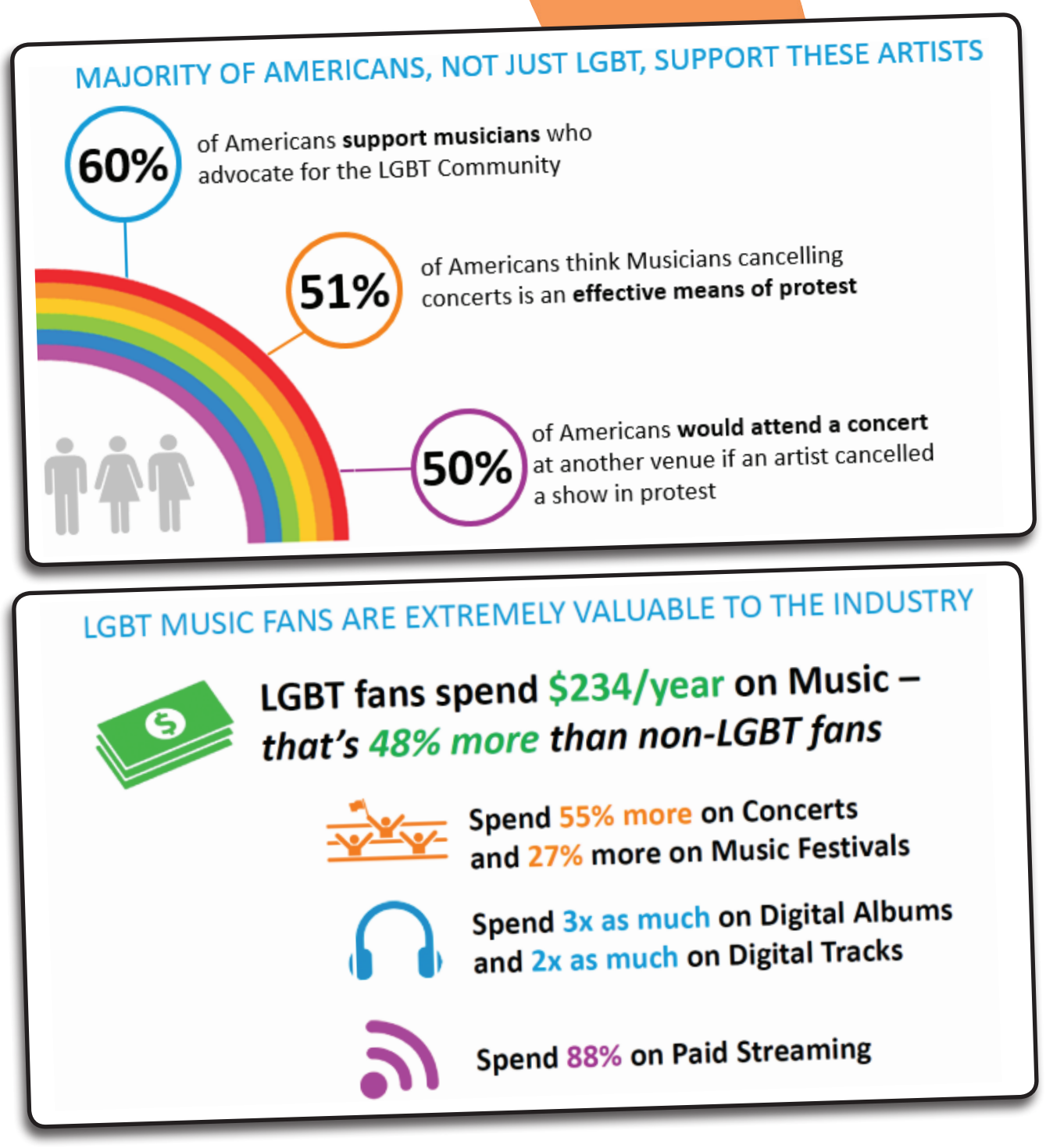
By press time, Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center announced it had raised $5,696 for the Orlando-based the GLBT Community Center of Central Florida. The center is providing services to people affected by the shooting. Funds were raised at a Stonewall Lehigh Valley, one of Allentown's two gay bars, by drag performer, Elektra Fierce St. James.

CANCELLING

Does It Matter?

By Richard Allen, GLAAD

GLAAD's Zeke Stokes and media giant Nielsen's Matt Yazge have unveiled data from a Harris Poll showing the music industry's impacting on LGBT lives regarding equality and acceptance. The poll finds that standing up for LGBT equality brings positive attention to musicians from fans.


MAJORITY OF AMERICANS, NOT JUST LGBT, SUPPORT THESE ARTISTS
60%
of Americans **support musicians** who advocate for the LGBT Community
51%
of Americans think Musicians cancelling concerts is an **effective means of protest**
50%
of Americans **would attend a concert** at another venue if an artist cancelled a show in protest
LGBT MUSIC FANS ARE EXTREMELY VALUABLE TO THE INDUSTRY
LGBT fans spend $234/year on Music – *that's 48% more than non-LGBT fans*
Spend 55% more on Concerts and 27% more on Music Festivals
Spend 3x as much on Digital Albums and 2x as much on Digital Tracks
Spend 88% on Paid Streaming

Musician protests, Nielsen finds, are considered the most effective avenue when it comes to raising awareness around LGBT issues, with 60% of respondents citing it as such.

Sixty-four percent of respondents cited Bruce Springsteen as a significantly influential musician, indicating that his decision to cancel a concert in North Carolina to protest the state's harmful anti-LGBT law was a major factor in the chain reaction of cancellations the state experienced in its wake, even reaching beyond music.

With musicians like Nick Jonas and Demi Lovato cancelling concerts in North Carolina to stand against the state's discriminatory HB2 law, awareness of such legislation has increased dramatically. Many musicians, including Mumford & Sons and Belinda Carlisle, have used their concerts to speak out against anti-LGBT legislation and to publicly advocate for full acceptance and equality.

The Harris Poll findings show that artists who protest discriminatory legislation have the support of a majority of Americans, with 60% saying they support artists who speak up about LGBT equality, 51% citing concert cancellations as an effective form of protest, and 50% saying they would attend a concert at another venue if an artist cancelled a show in protest. In fact, Western states are 23% more likely to listen to artists that protest and over 70% of American said they would be more or equally likely to attend an artist's concerts, support artists, buy an artist's albums, and listen to an artist's music if the musician is standing against anti-LGBT legislation.

Musicians are helping to build awareness about laws regarding bathrooms, therapists, services, and protections for the LGBT community, Nielsen finds. In the US, just under half of population is aware of laws against transgender people using the bathroom of their gender identity. The study reveals people in the South and those who identity as conservatives are generally more aware of the bills than others.

Nielsen cited previously released data that demonstrates how influential the LGBT community is on music. The gay community spends 48% more on music a year than non-LGBT fans of music. Specifically, LGBT fans are more likely to spend money on going to concerts, downloading music, and streaming music than non-LGBT fans. This new research shows how a musician's support for the LGBT community is not only an act of compassion, but also a worthy investment of their time and public platform.

This Harris Poll was conducted online, in English, within the United States between May 11 and 13, 2016 among 1,424 adults (aged 18 and over).

LGBT issues in general took center stage at the conference, as Music Biz President James Donio concluded his President's Address at this morning's Awards Breakfast & Presentations with a personal plea.

"As a Gay man, I cannot help but think that I might not be delivering this speech today if new state laws that allow various kinds of discrimination against people for who they are, how they live, who they love, or what they believe – and that are being considered in far too many other states – were in place when I was building my career here," said Donio. "Fortunately, I had some strong and enlightened advocates who guided and fostered my journey so I could have the chance to be where I am today. My fervent hope is that the journeys of those in the worldwide LGBT family can receive that same acceptance and encouragement, in the face of extremely troubling judgment and narrow-mindedness that I feel simply cannot be allowed to prevail."

COLOR

BRANDI CARLILE
JULY 20
SHOW AT 8PM
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
Margo Price
HERSHEY THEATRE
15 EAST CARACAS AVENUE, HERSHEY, PA
WWW.HERSHEYTHEATRE.COM / (717) 534-3405
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT TICKETMASTER.COM • CHARGE-BY-PHONE 800-745-3000 •
AT ALL TICKETMASTER OUTLETS • AT THE HERSHEY THEATRE BOX OFFICE
BRANDICARLILE.COM
slpconcerts
www.slpconcerts.net
FACEBOOK.COM/BRANDICARLILE

Weddings at Lancaster DoubleTree are
Simply Amazing

photo provided by: Lauren Fischer

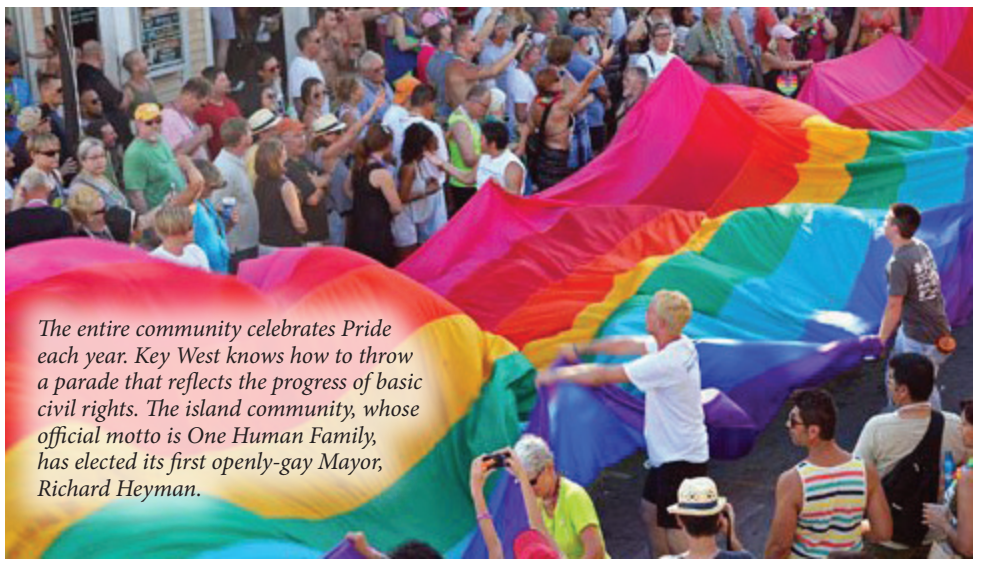
Schedule your Free Site Tour!

DOUBLETREE RESORT
BY HILTON
LANCASTER

Victoria Kirk
vkirk@willowval.com
717.464.7519
doubletreelancaster.com

2400 Willow Street Pike Lancaster PA, 17602

ephrata performing arts center EPAC at the Sharadin Bigler Theatre
GET TICKETS NOW - 717.733.7966
www.ephrataperformingartscenter.com


The entire community celebrates Pride each year. Key West knows how to throw a parade that reflects the progress of basic civil rights. The island community, whose official motto is One Human Family, has elected its first openly-gay Mayor, Richard Heyman.

Key West LGBT Destination

By Central Voice

"We are a small town and the Pride Parade has a small town feel, but with big surprises! says a longtime resident of the hotter than ever LGBT destination.

Key West's gay history which dates back to the Dark Ages.

Today, there is something for everyone.

For men, there's Tropical Heat Aug. 11-14, full of the me parties and events.

For women, there's WomenFest, Sept. 7-11, is one of the largest gatherings of lesbians and friends in North America. The annual celebration draws women from across the globe.

For literary folks, there's bars where Truman Capote and Tennessee Williams, known as the island's gay grandfather, used to hang out. One time a tourist in tiny belly t-shirt asked Capote to sign her navel. He fussed, not wanting to, but Williams urged him on. Capote writes the 12 letters of his name around her belly button like numbers on a clock. She is delighted and scampers back to her drunk hubby who is not amused. Drunk hubby approaches the table and hauls it out of his fly: "As long as you're signing things how about this?" to which Capote replied, "I don't know if I can autograph it, but perhaps I could initial it."

With guided tours, Hemingway House is Key West's number one tourist attraction. The house, gardens, and studio are wonderful and remain pretty much as they were when "Papa" lived there.

While in Key West, Hemingway wrote parts of "A Farewell to Arms." His lifestyle on the island is legendary. He wrote well, drank hard, was a game fishing enthusiast, and had a great love of boxing. You can visit his hangout, Sloppy Joe's bar, located at the current site of Captain Tony's on Greene Street.

History buffs can visit Harry S. Truman's Little White House which served as naval headquarters during the Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II. In 1946 the historic building first served as the winter White House of President Truman to which he made 11 official trips. Today, the Truman Little White House is a public, living, museum.

Want to see a movie?

Voted "Best Cinema" by readers of *Florida Monthly Magazine,* the state-of-the-art Tropical Cinema brings independent and popular movies to the island. Beer, wine, and traditional movie theatre concessions.

Do you believe in ghosts?

Key West is Florida's second oldest state and is known for many spirited tales of is ancestors. Guided walking ghost tours abound.

And, of course, there is always the outdoors. Seaplane adventures, skydiving, tropical gardens, and botanical gardens.

Info: http://www.kwbgonline.org

Aug. 11-14 - TROPICAL HEAT is Key West's "HOTTEST" event for men! The temperature is not the only thing that will rise during Tropical Heat. The all-male theme parties, pool parties, and adult-oriented entertainment promises to be HOT! August on the Island is always HOT, but during Tropical Heat it promises to be STEAMY! Four days of hot guys and fun, the best way to experience Key West.

Sept. 7-11, Labor Day Weekend - Just before the school year starts in earnest… just as the last rays of summertime finally set… just before the holiday season begins to rev up… Key West welcomes women from across the globe to an annual celebration that has become one of the largest gatherings of lesbians and friends in North America—Womenfest! Each year thousands of ladies come together over the Labor Day weekend and stay for a wide range of activities and events during four days of revelry and fun. Key West boasts restaurants that offer remarkable cuisine year round, watering holes that offer authentic, tropical libations and shops that can't be found anywhere else. Of course the most popular activity during Womenfest usually involves a chaise lounge, a good book, sunscreen and a killer margarita.

Info: www.womenfest.com or call 305-294-4603 for tickets to concerts and more information

Critically acclaimed folk singer Brandi Carlile performs in Hershey

"Everyone needs to be risking something," says Seattle-based singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile. She's discussing the M.O. behind The Firewatcher's Daughter, her stunning new release – her first for artist-friendly indie label ATO.

The 12-song collection marks a triumphant return after a three-year recording hiatus, and her strongest, most rock & roll album to date.

A critically acclaimed Seattle folk/Americana singer, Brandi Carlile's 2014 album The Firewatcher's Daughter is her highest charting album to date and received her first-ever GRAMMY® nomination for 'Best Americana Album'. The Firewatcher's Daughter also reached the top 10 in the Billboard 200 and reached #1 on the Rock album chart, #1 on the Independent album chart and #9 on the Billboard 200.

Brandi held headlining performances after the release of The Firewatcher's Daughter in many historic places including Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Radio City Music Hall, the Ryman Auditorium and the studios of the Tonight Show, Today Show, Conan, CBS Saturday Morning and Tavis Smiley.

In the spring and summer of 2016 Brandi will embark on select arena dates with The Avett Brothers including NYC's Madison Square Garden and a co-headlining run with Americana folk legends and ATO label mates Old Crow Medicine Show.

Tickets: $30.50, $40.50, $50.50, $60.50 and $70.50 (processing fees apply) at Hershey Theatre Box Office; charged by phone at 717-534-3405 or 800-745-3000; online at www.HersheyEntertainment.com or www.TicketMaster.com

Art Association of Harrisburg
EVENTS FOR JULY & AUGUST

Wissler-Thomas Art Collection Tour
July 10, 1-4 PM
$15 IN ADVANCE, $20 AT DOOR
"Off-the-Wall" Sculpture Exhibition
Opening Reception: Aug. 5, 5-8 PM
by artists of the Metropolis Collective
Summer Art Classes
for Youth & Adults
July 11 - Aug. 27
Uptown Summer Soirée II
Aug. 13, 5-8 PM
Paintings by: John & April Holtzman, Steve Wetzel, Julie Riker & Jill Peckelun
$40 IN ADVANCE, $45 AT DOOR
Highgrove Farm Soirée
Aug. 20, 4-7 PM
Paintings by: JD Wissler, Robert Hughes, Jane Albin & Simonne Roy
$40 IN ADVANCE, $45 AT DOOR

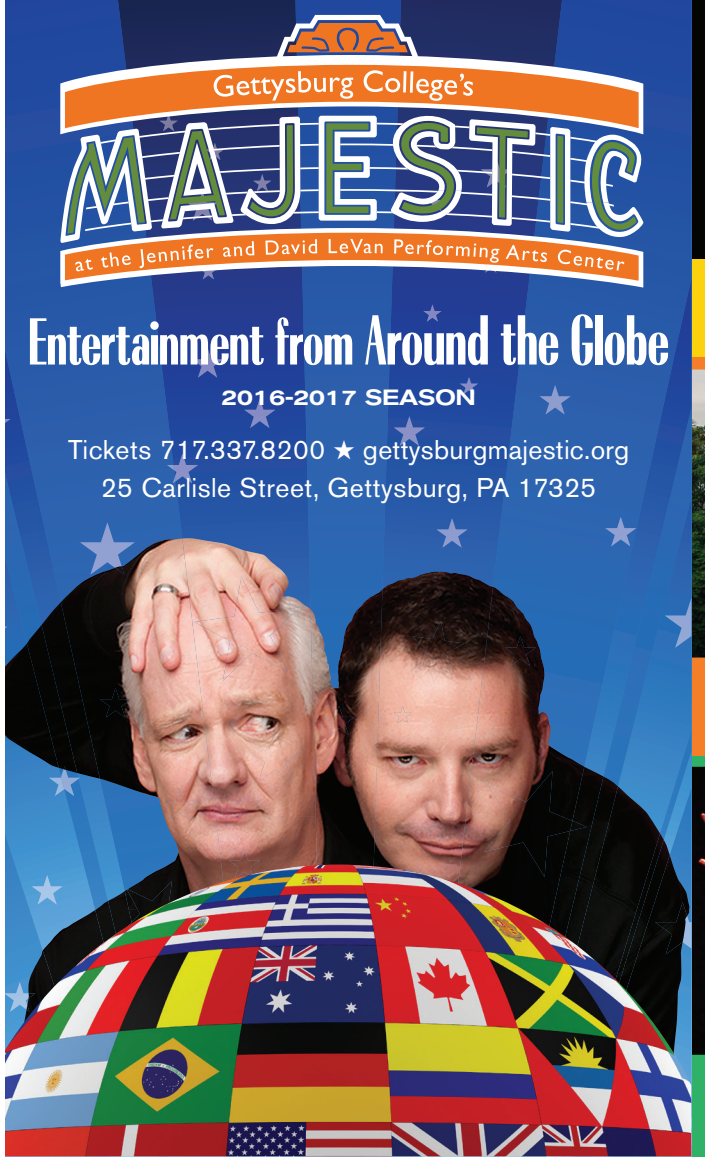
CULTURAL ENRICHMENT FUND

ART

Visit www.artassocofhbg.com for class schedules, tour & Soirée reservations

(717) 236-1432
21 North Front Street
Harrisburg

Gettysburg College's
MAJESTIC
at the Jennifer and David LeVan Performing Arts Center
Entertainment from Around the Globe
2016-2017 SEASON
Tickets 717.337.8200 ★ gettysburgmajestic.org
25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325



FAME – The Musical
September 24, 2016 ★ 8:00 p.m.

Havana Cuba All-Stars
October 19, 2016 ★ 7:30 p.m.

Villalobos Brothers
February 10, 2017 ★ 7:30 p.m.

Five Irish Tenors
March 8, 2017 ★ 7:30 p.m.

In The Mood, A 1940'S Musical Revue
April 7, 2017 ★ 7:30 p.m.

Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood
May 12, 2017 ★ 7:30 p.m.

COLOR

Riverbottom Pottery

Celebrating Our 6th Anniversary

- Visit our gift shop where local artisans display all original designs
- Enroll now for fall adult and kids pottery classes
- Trial classes, group classes, special occasion sessions available
- Central PA's dealer for clays, pottery supplies and tools
- Your authorized distributor for Skutt Kilns and Wheels
- Kiln and Wheel repairs by certified technicians

Friend us on Facebook & join our mailing list to receive special offers & discounts

(717) 614-0317
3815 Paxton Street, Harrisburg
www.RiverbottomPottery.com

ALWAYS at the Best Parties in Town!

Call us for a *free* quote:
(717) 441-1494

HARRISBURG MAGAZINE Readers' Choice 2015

Sir D's CATERING
"ALWAYS AT THE BEST PARTIES IN TOWN"

SirDsCatering.com
149 Geary Avenue,
New Cumberland

CORPORATE • SOCIAL • WEDDINGS

SUSQUEHANNA ART MUSEUM

Beth Galston, Ginko Wall detail, urethane resin and ginko leaves, 1998.

Main Gallery June 10 - September 18, 2016
SPONSORED BY HARRISBURG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Recasting Nature: Selected Sculptures
by Beth Galston, 1998 – 2016

&

The Luminous River
by photographer John Pfahl

THE CITY
A JURIED EXHIBITION
SPONSORED BY MARY-LOUISE JOHNSON
May 13 - August 11, 2016
Lobby Gallery

DESPUÉS DE LA FRONTERA
AFTER THE BORDER
SPONSORED BY MESSIAH COLLEGE
August 19 - December 4, 2016
Lobby Gallery

1401 NORTH THIRD STREET HARRISBURG, PA 17102
717-233-8668 | SusquehannaArtMuseum.org
TUESDAY - SATURDAY 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM SUNDAY 12:00 - 5:00 PM

AMPLE FREE PARKING

Harrisburg University of Science and Technology
Cultural Enrichment Fund
Messiah College
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, A State Agency

You're Invited
to the
8th ANNUAL
Schuylkill County Wine Festival
Hegins Park – Hegins, PA

$15 per person - $5 designated driver
$12 advance ticket - available until Aug. 27th
Call for Group Rates of 10 or more

Flavorful Wine Tasting, Regional Cuisine,
Spices, Jewelry, Chocolate, Cheese and more.
Themed Table Decorating Contest

Sunday, September 4, 2016
from 1:00–6:00 p.m.

Visit our website:
www.schuylkillwinefestival.com

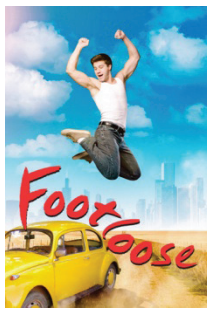
For More Information
Contact Mary Tobash
570-682-9660

Visitors Bureau
Schuylkill County
www.schuylkill.org

Compliments of Twin Valley Farmers Exchange

entertainment schedule

FOOTLOOSE
Fulton Theatre
Until July 17



When Ren and his mother move from Chicago to a small farming town, Ren is prepared for the inevitable adjustment period at his new high school. What he isn't prepared for are the rigorous local edicts, including a ban on dancing instituted by the local preacher, determined to exercise the control over the town's youth that he cannot command in his own home. When the reverend's rebellious daughter sets her sights on Ren, many of the locals eagerly believe the worst about the new kid, overlooking the personal aching in both the youth and adults that fuels the need to "cut loose." Augmented with dynamic new songs for the stage musical, Footloose celebrates the wisdom of listening to young people, guiding them with a warm heart and an open mind. Tickets: Purchased at Theatre, by calling 717-397-7425, or online.

AMERICAN IDIOT
Ephrata Performing Arts Center
Sharadin Bigler Theatre
July 21 – August 6

American Idiot boldly takes the American musical to places it's never gone before. This dramatic version of Green Day's Grammy-winning album (with other songs by Green Day added to complete the story) follows three young male friends in post-9/11 America on their different paths in search of a way to be something other than an American idiot spending all his time getting his "television fix." Defiantly nontraditional in form, American Idiot is deeply traditional in its focus on the universal experience of trying to find your own way as you move into adulthood. Tickets: (717) 733-7966; epacboxoffice@gmail.com

CELTIC THUNDER
Hershey Theatre
August 21, 7 p.m.

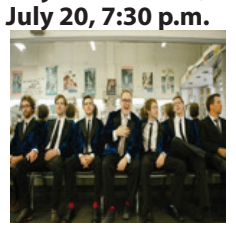
Continuing their tradition of paying homage to the musical culture and traditions

of Ireland, Celtic Thunder's latest show is a depiction both their musical footprint over the past 8 years as well as their amazing heritage of Irish and Celtic music. LEGACY is a live show featuring a mix of lively, fast paced and upbeat songs "A Place in The Choir" "Galway Girl" and "Raggle Taggle Gypsy" that represent the fun loving nature of the Irish and slower classic ballads "Danny Boy" "Noreen" and "Buachaille On Eirne" that portray a more nostalgic and romantic side. LEGACY has something special something to offer to everyone. Tickets: 1-800-745-3000, HersheyTheatre.com

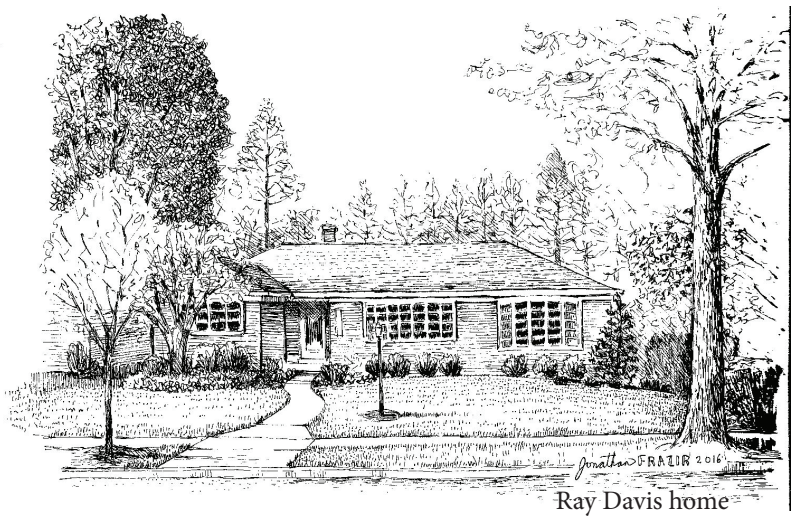
KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD
Whitaker Center
Sunoco Performance Theater
August 16, 8 p.m.

Kenny Wayne Shepherd is THE young blues rock guitarist. Ask anyone who knows anything about modern music. There are few artists whose names are synonymous with one instrument and how it's played in service to an entire genre. Utter the phrase "young blues rock guitarist" within earshot of anyone with even a cursory knowledge of the modern musical vanguard and the name they are most likely to respond with will be Kenny Wayne Shepherd. Tickets: 717-214-ARTS (2787)

ST. PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES
Majestic Theatre, Gettysburg College
July 20, 7:30 p.m.



This electrifying soul septet from Birmingham, Alabama makes its Central PA debut with a sweat-soaked, gutbucket, horn-infused brand of Muscle Shoals / Stax-influenced R&B, fronted by Paul Janeway, one of the most charismatic lead singers since James Brown. Info: 717-337-8200; boxofficeinfo@gettysburg.edu



Ray Davis home

Art Association Hosts Soirees

The Art Association of Harrisburg will host August Soirees and conclude the series with an event in September.

On August 13, 5 to 8 p.m., Ray Davis will welcome Soiree attendees to his home at 3434 Green Street, Harrisburg, showcasing painters April and John Holtzman, Steve Wetzel, Julie Riker and Jill Pecklun.

Then on August 20, John Carpenter and Robert Hughes will host a Soiree at their home Highgrove Farm near Lewisburg, at 5291 Stein Lane, Winfield. Robert's own paintings will be featured, along with paintings by John David Wissler, Simonne Roy, and Jane Albin. The time for the Highgrove Farm Soiree will be 4 to 7 p.m., with live music by Jonathan Frazier.

The Autumn Soiree will be hosted by Darren and Jennifer Shaw at their home on Trayer Lane in Mechanicsburg on Saturday, September 17, 5 to 8 p.m.

The advance reservation fee for all Soirees is $40, or $45 at the door. All Soirees include refreshments and great art, with the proceeds benefitting Art Association of Harrisburg cultural programs. The Hall Foundation is the Soiree Sponsor this summer.

Summer Reading Club at the Library

It's not too late to join the Summer Reading Club at the Dauphin County Library System! Just read, listen to, or watch 8 items over the course of the summer and list the titles on the Reading log. Bring back the log between August 1 and 31st to get your final prize, an SRC lunch cooler. You will also be entered into the drawing to win gift cards and a Kindle Fire. Visit The Library or dcls.org to sign up.

Following up from the last issue, here are more Lambda Literary Award titles.

THE | DAUPHIN COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
LIBRARY
OPEN FOR DISCOVERY

book reviews

By Deborah Battisti & Lori Lane
Dauphin County Library System
www.dcls.org

The Cherokee Rose: A Novel of Gardens and Ghosts by Tiya Miles
As much about an historical site as it is about people, this novel focuses on three women in the present and two in the past, all involved with the Chief Vann House Historic Site in Chatsworth, Georgia, the home of a slave-owning Cherokee chief who lived in the early 1800's. Ruth, Jinx and Cheyenne all travel to Georgia to seek answers about their family histories, and each holds a piece of the story that the others desire. Together the women discover the ghosts, brutal secrets, and true owner of the Chief Vann House through the hidden diary of Moravian missionary Anna Gamble, while Jinx and Ruth also find each other.

Immaculate Blue by Paul Russell
The urge to look back, revisit the past, to try to relive or unravel it, is often the dangerous realm of unfinished business. Paul Russell's startling and incisive novel, Immaculate Blue, brings back Anatole, Lydia, Chris, and Leigh–the four characters he introduced in his first novel, The Salt Point, as they come together almost 30 years later tor the wedding of Anatole to his future husband, Rafa. Paul Russell's innate knowledge of these characters makes the novel compelling. Immaculate Blue can be read alone, and it suffers no missing pieces. Yet, read as a sequel, it contains the dimensional depth of a family album.

The Rise and Fall of the Yellow House by John Whittier Treat
Treat's debut novel is an exploration of desire, drugs, family, murder, and the gay experience in the face of the mass death of AIDS. Set in Seattle in the early 1980's, the novel is driven by the love story between Jeff, a white academic from New York and Henry, a Hispanic kid from a broken home, with little trust in the future. This difference in the outlook of each man results in a tense moment during a weekend getaway when Jeff refuses to penetrate Henry without a condom. Through Jeff, the reader gets a sense of what it was to be a sexually active gay man at the dawn of the known plague. This is a fine addition to AIDS literature, wonderfully achieving the frantic atmosphere of the mid-1980s, the rainy rawness of the Pacific Northwest, and the sensuality and unique connections within the gay community.

Blue Talk and Love by Mecca Jamilah Sullivan
These short stories are filled with girls and women of color navigating the moods and mazes of urban daily life. Set in various enclaves of New York City — including the middle-class Hamilton Heights section of Harlem, the black queer social world of the West Village, the Spanish-speaking borderland between Harlem and Washington Heights, and historic Tin Pan Alley — the collection uses magic realism, historical fiction, satire and more to highlight young black women's inner lives. Black girls matter and Sullivan show us just how much.

Creating Your Perfect Relationship

making sense of life

By Dr. Terry Drew Karanen

Are you happy with the relationships in your life? Or, do you crave to have different relationships than the ones you have? There are ways to expand our scope of associations and enrich the ones we already possess. One way is by practicing the concept that we are all truly "one."

If we take a look around us there doesn't always seem to be a lot of unity, let alone "oneness." There are so many different political agendas. We live in a society of diverse cultures and ethnic backgrounds. Then there are our religions and spiritual beliefs, or a complete lack of anything to do with religion. Some of us have plenty of cash, others don't even have a place to sleep at night. How can we apply an idea of oneness to the world in which we live?

Even with over seven billion people now roaming our planet, we are all basically the same. Yes, our skin and hair varies in tone or color; but none of that matters should we require a blood transfusion as long as the blood types match. We are all the same species. But what has that to do with our daily lives?

If we are one then we understand that what we do affects those around us in more profound ways than ever before. While we have freedom of choice there are also consequences in the form of outcomes or effects precipitated by those choices. Think about in the past how destruction of complex ecosystems has had catastrophic effects not only on a specific area, but far beyond; and, too often in disastrous ways never even considered.

The same is true for us. For example, we may want more physical affection from a partner; but when that desire is not immediately fulfilled we could become morose or spiteful. Neither reaction promotes a successful move toward bliss! Those ego-based reactions, whether or not we believe it, have an effect on others as well.

Would we treat ourselves the same way? If we split a fingernail or cut ourselves shaving would we become so enraged with ourselves that we would cut off a finger or slash our throat without understanding the outcome? Of course not, yet we are far more willing to express our emotions inappropriately (or stuff them inside of us) when others are involved, and then later wonder why we don't have the peace, love, joy and bliss in our lives.

This may sound like it's all about "give-give-give," so the question comes up about when do we "get-get-get!" If we are to live our life by "giving only to get." then we are never going to be satisfied, and this is the same for us if we are single or in a relationship. To be truly happy in our relationships we must understand that everything we receive comes from within us.

We live in this corporeal world and to thrive we enjoy being around others to varying degrees. Though we can hug ourselves it doesn't quite cut it when we compare that with being hugged or caressed by our beloved. We tend to attract to us what we put out, but only if we are giving what we feel from deep inside us; and, giving that emotion and love without an attitude of "when do I get it back."

What would happen this week if you saw everyone with whom you interacted as an extension of yourself? Would the hugs you desire come more easily from another if you initiated contact? How would your experience be with the surly clerk at the store or bank if you treated them as your beloved, instead of an impediment to the remainder of your day?

There's only one planet at present upon which we can live and thrive. By seeking to interact with love and support we make way for the peace and happiness we crave.

Terry is an author, speaker, licensed social worker and flight attendant. Read his weekly blog at Central Voice online or on his website at: blog.terrydrewkaranen.com. He is also the director of Spirit, Mind and Body Foundation (spiritmindbodyfoundation.org).

Christian Rocker Comes Out

By Jonathan Merritt, Religious News Service

"I don't mean to cry. It's just been such a long time coming."

Trey Pearson, 35, was overcome with emotion halfway into our first interview, and it is easy to understand why. For the past 15 years, he's been the lead singer of the popular Christian rock band "Everyday Sunday." But he decided to put his career on the line this week and admit to his faithful fans that he is gay.

"I finally decided to come out because I couldn't keep trying to be something that I wasn't," he tells me.

Pearson's announcement is no small story. Since 2001, "Everyday Sunday" has sold around a quarter of a million albums. His song "Wake Up! Wake Up!" was the most played Christian rock song of 2007, and his 2009 album, "Best Night of Our Lives," broke onto the coveted Billboard 200 chart. Pearson has toured in all 50 states and 20 countries, playing with top Christian musicians.

MCC column

By Rev. Lori Rivera, Pastor
MCC of the Spirit

Happy Pride Month!

I have heard many times people asking why we still need a "Pride" celebration. My quick and first response it that no one else is doing to do it for us. Then I add that we need to remind ourselves and our communities that we are people like everyone else, have the same rights as everyone else, and we are proud of who we are!

We, the LGBTQIA community, still need to live into the Pride theme from the Central PA Pridefest, "Unity It Begins with Us." We, and this is my opinion, need to keep ourselves within the eyes of our community. We need to let the world see the people we are. We need to continue to be involved in events of unity that celebrate who we are to combat those who condemn us. Yes we have the right to get married. But we also still take the chance of getting fired at our places of employment if we put our marriage photos on our desks.

All we have to do is look in the newspaper, watch the news or keep checking various media resources to see that there are still people who want to condemn us or limit us to what we can or cannot do. This whole issue over bathrooms is an issue of condemnation of our transgendered brothers and sisters. We, the LGB community must be in unity with our transgendered brothers and sisters in this issue (and others) with our support and our voices to condemn those who work to harm those of our community.

I am reminder of the story of Esther in the Bible. She came to a time in her life when she had to make a decision about speaking out for her people. Her uncle reminder her that God might have put her in the place she was in as the Queen in order to be available to speak up for her community when the need arose. And speak out she did.

This story reminds me of our need to speak up and not wait for another. This story also reminds me to be so thankful each and every day for our allies. What a blessing it is for us to have allies who speak out for our community, who put themselves between us and those would condemn us like those who stand across the street and yells comments at us during Pride Festival events. I am so thankful for our "Silent Witness" folks who are out at the Central PA Pridefest every year with their rainbow umbrellas showing the community that one does not have to be gay to be in solidary with the LGBTQI community and they are also out there to protect us, the LGBTQI community. Thank you Silent Witnesses!

Be proud of who you are. Share your pride with others. You will never know, like Esther, that this is the time for you to speak up in unity and your words make the difference in the life of one who is struggling to come out and to come out proudly!

Happy Pride!

MCC
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SPIRIT

Celebrate Pride!

Celebration Service
Sunday, July 31 - 10 am

Spirits United Interfaith Pride Service
Sunday, July 31 - 6 pm

Visit our booth during the Pride Festival!

Rev. Lori E. Hatch-Rivera, Senior Pastor

(717) 236-7387
2973 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110
Sunday 10 am • Wednesday 7 pm
*www.*mccofthespirit*.org*

Come Back To Church

We know that many of you have been hurt by church in the past, but we're different. You're welcome here.

God loves you just as you are, and so do we.

Find us on Facebook.
Free parking in Market Square Garage.

MARKET SQUARE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
a beacon of hope on the square
www.marketsquarechurch.org

An open and affirming Catholic church, serving the modern world.

The Parish of St. Joseph of the Old Catholic Church

4620 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg
www.TheParishofStJoseph.org
BishopMichaelScalzi@yahoo.com
717.439.4769
Mass: Sundays at Noon

Ecumenically sharing St. Andrew's in the Valley Episcopal Church

COLOR

TROPHY HOUSE

Celebrate success with purchases of trophies, awards, plaques and signs, custom engraved with logos, symbols or messages of appreciation, from the Trophy House.

PLEASE STOP BY OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
TrophyHouseHarrisburg.com

(717) 238-2838 | 308 Chestnut Street, Harrisburg

Today's TO DO List

- ☑ Oil Change
- ☑ Grocery Shopping
- ☐ Kids' soccer registration
- ☐ ~~Drop off drycleaning~~

I signed up for FREE pickup & delivery service!

Sign up at CLASSICDRYCLEANER.COM or call Patricia at 920-5500.

100 % Satisfaction Guaranteed
Classic Drycleaners℠ and Laundromats

We know you're busy. Let us help.

TransCentralPA Topics

By Joanne Carroll
president of TransCentralPA

Stand up for Equality and Justice

Frankly, as I listen to the bigoted rhetoric uttered by the homophobes and the transphobes out there, especially those that claim any patch of moral high ground, I get more pi**ed off with each of their words.

My current irascibility revolves around the current debate rising from HB2 in North Carolina, the discriminatory legislation of other conservative leaning states and now the branding of the PA Fairness Act as a "bathroom bill". The Pennsylvania Pastors Network as well as a group working under the cover of Defend My Privacy (a subset of the Pennsylvania Family Institute) and others are attacking the Fairness Act via the internet and radio and television coverage, by declaring it a "bathroom bill".

These opponents of fairness for the LGBT community in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania throw hyperbole around like confetti as they quote one discredited "expert" after another, take snippets from the Bible as if it were a menu from a Chinese restaurant using one from column "A" and another from column "B", and then superimpose their own perversity over every word.

The horrendous images that they create to scare people do not come from real life. For example, there is NOT ONE scintilla of evidence anywhere that would suggest that someone like me (a transgender woman) has ever gone into a public women's restroom to voyeuristically enjoy the surroundings or to accost someone with sexual overtures. Let me repeat NOT ONE!

What is fascinating to me is their allegations have to come from somewhere because they are not supported by any known fact. This leads me to believe, that their own deviancy and sick minds conjure up the images that they tout as potential problems.

Here is the kicker, lately, some vocal anti-LGBT advocates make the news themselves. One example is as recent as May 9, when an anti-gay pastor was arrested in Arkansas on 70 counts of child pornography.

Do you recall former Governor of Arkansas, Mike Huckabee making the statement that he wished he could claim a transgender identity so he could march into the girl's locker room back in high school just to check "things" out?

In my high school experience, I hated freaking gym class, because I simply did not want those boys to see me naked. Further, I would not have been comfortable in the girl's locker room either, because my mind did not match my body. I abhorred what I saw in the mirror, because it reminded me daily of my gender incongruity. I would be willing to wager that my story would find resonance with the majority of my trans-sisters.

I hesitate to use the axiom, "it takes one to know one" but I cannot think of any alternative. The only way these people can think of such horrible scenarios is if the idea has crossed their mind to begin with. Only a person with identical character traits would be able to imagine those traits in someone else.

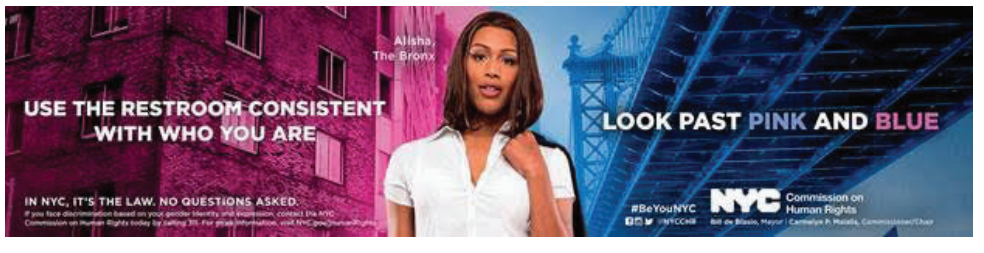
The fire breathing hate mongers on the far right have thus far lost all of their wedge issues. They lost on segregation, sodomy laws, and marriage equality and now those of us in the transgender community are their current marginalized demographic to victimize. Perhaps they have convinced themselves that since our numbers are relatively smaller, that we are a better target.

They neglected one important thing in their strategy; the LGBT community knows how to combat bigotry because we have beaten them before. In addition, public opinion is in our favor and we know that "The Arc of Moral History is Long and it Bends Toward Justice".

So where does this all end up? Hard to say, but I can only guess that we are bound to hear these spurious comments for at least the near future. That being the case, I will do my best to control my Irish temper, and when and where I have the opportunity, do my best to refute their sordid claims.

Stand up for Equality and Justice….VOTE BLUE!

USE THE RESTROOM CONSISTENT WITH WHO YOU ARE
IN NYC, IT'S THE LAW. NO QUESTIONS ASKED.
Charlie, Brooklyn
LOOK PAST PINK AND BLUE
#BeYouNYC
NYC Commission on Human Rights


USE THE RESTROOM CONSISTENT WITH WHO YOU ARE
IN NYC, IT'S THE LAW. NO QUESTIONS ASKED.
Alisha, The Bronx
LOOK PAST PINK AND BLUE
#BeYouNYC
NYC Commission on Human Rights

Photos: New York City Mayor's Office

CUSTOM
j.a.sharp
JEWELER

322 N. Queen St.
Lancaster, PA
(717)295-9661

www.jasharp.com

Voted
Simply the Best
7 Years

BEDFORD STREET ANTIQUES

BEDFORD STREET ANTIQUES LLC
44 N. Bedford St., Carlisle, PA 17013
717-241-5309
Mon. - Sat. 10-7; Sun. 10-5
bedfordstreetantiques.com

Play hard, recover smart.

Need a little you time during your hectic summer? Elements Massage™ is here to help your stress fade away with the best massage, guaranteed.

$49 Special Intro Offer
1 hour massage session

elements massage®

HARRISBURG MAGAZINE Readers' Choice 2015

SIMPLY THE BEST MASSAGE OR THE NEXT ONE IS ON US.

the BEST massage GUARANTEED the elements promise

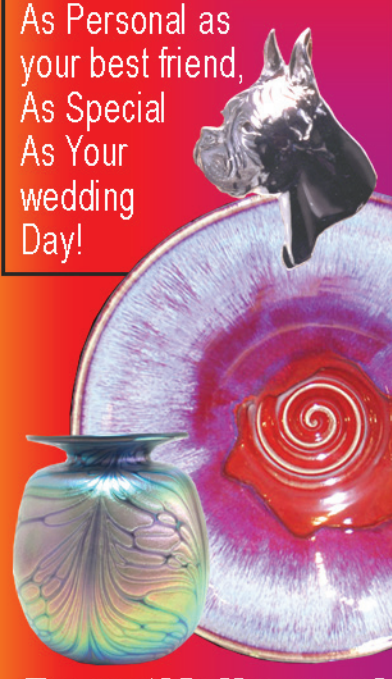
Harrisburg
717.746.6277
5072 Jonestown Road Suite 3
Colonial Commons Shopping Centerelementsmassage.com/harrisburg

Massage session includes time for consultation and dressing. Void where prohibited or otherwise restricted by law. Other restrictions may apply; see studio for details and information about The Elements Promise™. Each Elements Massage™ studio is independently owned and operated.

Something Special
by American Artists
(like me)

Surround Yourself with Originality!

Custom Jewelry-
As Personal as your best friend,
As Special As Your wedding Day!



Over 50 American Artists....About a Dozen of us Local

Beautifully made. Reasonably priced.
Why Settle?

GOLDCRAFTER'S CORNER
5301 Jonestown Rd. ~ 717.412.4616
www.GoldcraftersCorner.com

Sorry Dorothy. I need less drama in my life. I'm headed to my "Home Away from Home" for fun & relaxation!
PLAYFUL PUPS RETREAT
Overnight Lodging
Doggie Daycare
Training • Grooming
850 Milton Grove Road North
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
717-689-3408
www.playfulpupsretreat.com

At Merry Maids, we know precisely, meticulously, immediately, always the kind of clean you mean. You will receive the highest level of professional care. From the consultation to the expert cleaning and the follow-up, be completely satisfied every step of the way. Guaranteed.

Ready for a professional clean? Call us today.

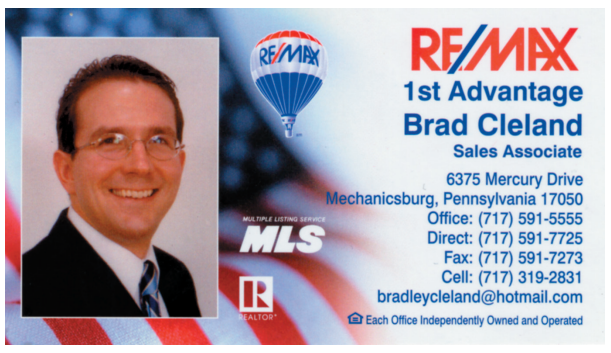
merrymaids.com

Central PA
717-620-8788
harrisburg@mm2clean.com

merry maids
Relax. It's Done.®

$100 Off
Take $40 off your first cleaning and $20 off your next three cleanings.
New or former customers only. Can't be combined with any other offer or discount. Additional restrictions may apply. Offers are non-transferable. Cash value 1/100 of 1 cent.
©2010 Merry Maids L.P. All rights reserved.
merry maids.

CV marketplace



80% OF LGBT CONSUMERS AGREED THEY WERE MORE LIKELY TO BUY FROM LGBT-FRIENDLY COMPANIES

It's time to diversify!

Steve Kozokas
Central Voice Ad Representative
717-856-3115
stevek@pressandjournal.com

Outer Banks, NC - Vacation Rentals

- Over 600 vacation homes in all price ranges!
- Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hills, Nags Head, & Southern Shores to Corolla's 4x4 area
- 2 to 18 bedrooms, most with a private pool/ hot tub
- Linens and towels are provided (call for exception)

Brindley Beach VACATIONS & SALES

877-642-3224 . www.brindleybeach.com

Advertising Manager

The Leader-Herald
Gloversville, NY

We believe that our newspapers provide the best value and reach for our advertisers as well as the best local news source for our readers. If you want to work for a company that has 100% faith in the newspaper industry, then we want to hear from you.

We are looking for the right candidate to lead our advertising staff in the lower Adirondack region of NY. Located in Gloversville, NY there is plenty of outdoor recreation and activities and housing is very affordable.

The Leader-Herald is seeking a talented person who can motivate and lead a team of professionals to new heights. We are part of Ogden Newspapers, a 124 year old growing family-owned business. Competitive salary with health benefits.

Send cover letter and resume to:
Steve Herron at sherron@leaderherald.com

classifieds

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK –
RUN YOUR AD All Across Pennsylvania FOR ONLY $475
That's right -- a 25-word classified ad costs only $475 to run once in 160 newspapers throughout Pennsylvania with a circulation of 2.5 million. One call all it takes. We'll do the rest.
CALL 717-703-3020

ADOPTION OR PERSONALS:

PRIVATE ADOPTION: KIND, LOVING NY COUPLE HOPING TO ADOPT A BABY. OPEN, ACCEPTING, FINANCIALLY SECURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE AND VIDEO: WWW.SUEGARYADOPT.COM EMAIL: SUEGARYADOPT@GMAIL.COM CALL/ TEXT: 516-234-7187

EDUCATION/TRAINING:

QUICKBOOKS & PAYROLL TRAINING PROGRAM! ONLINE CAREER TRAINING CAN GET YOU JOB READY! ASK ABOUT OUR LAPTOP PROGRAM! HS DIPLOMA/ GED REQUIRED. 1-877-649-3155

HELP WANTED:

ENTRY LEVEL HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR CAREER. GET TRAINED – GET CERTIFIED – GET HIRED! BULLDOZERS, BACKHOES & EXCAVATORS. IMMEDIATE LIFETIME JOB PLACEMENT. VA BENEFITS. NATIONAL AVERAGE $18.00-$22.00 1-866-362-6497

HELP WANTED – SALES:

EARN $500 A DAY: INSURANCE AGENTS NEEDED * LEADS, NO COLD CALLS * COMMISSIONS PAID DAILY * LIFETIME RENEWALS * COMPLETE TRAINING * HEALTH & DENTAL INSURANCE * LIFE LICENSE REQUIRED. CALL 1-888-713-6020

MISCELLANEOUS:

AIRLINE CAREERS BEGIN HERE. GET HANDS ON TRAINING AS FAA CERTIFIED AVIATION TECHNICIAN. FINANCIAL AID FOR QUALIFIED STUDENTS. JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE. CALL AVIATION INSTITUTE OF MAINTENANCE 877-207-0345

VACATION RENTALS:

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND. BEST SELECTION OF AFFORDABLE RENTALS. FULL/ PARTIAL WEEKS. CALL FOR FREE BROCHURE. OPEN DAILY. HOLIDAY RESORT SERVICES. 1-800-638-2102. ONLINE RESERVATIONS: WWW.HOLIDAYOC.COM

ADOPTION:

PROFESSIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN COUPLE TRULY WANT TO ADOPT. GREAT RELATIVES, ACTIVE LIFESTYLE, HUGE HEARTS, ADVENTUROUS, LOVING. CONFIDENTIAL, ALLOWED EXPENSES PAID. KECIA AND DEVON. 1-866-932-5603

Judge Robert G. Doumar erred by not deferring to the federal Department of Education's requirement that schools let transgender students use restrooms consistent with their gender identity. Doumar dismissed a claim by Gavin Grimm, a teenage transgender boy attending high school in Gloucester County, Virginia, that the school violated his statutory rights under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act by adopting a rule that he could use only restrooms designated for girls or unisex single-user restrooms. The court used the plaintiff's initials to guard his privacy, but the American Civil Liberties Union, which represents Grimm, identifies him by name.

The high school originally accommodated Grimm by letting him use the boys' restroom when, at the beginning of his sophomore year in August 2014, he informed officials he was transitioning, had gotten a legal name change, and would be expressing his male gender identity. After several weeks without serious incident, some parents, alerted to the situation by their children, objected.

• Gender-neutral School Bathroom

The principal of a Los Angeles high school where a scuffle broke out with adult protesters over a new gender-neutral bathroom praised his students Wednesday as "trailblazers" for campaigning to install the restroom, according to The Associated Press. . In a statement, Principal Martin Gomez said he is proud of students at Santee Education Complex for their efforts to establish **the first multi-stall, gender-neutral restroom at the Los Angeles Unified School District**, the nation's second-largest.

• Seattle Schools Safe Places

All 98 **Seattle Public Schools** will now be **Safe Places**. "While we see a rolling back of civil rights protections for LGBTQ people in some corners of the country, Seattle remains inclusive and welcoming to all people," **Mayor Ed Murray** said in an announcement on the new rollout for the program. "SPD Safe Place brings together businesses, community organizations, and the public to stand up against hate and intolerance. I applaud Seattle Public Schools for bringing this important program to our schools, empowering students to speak out against anti-LGBTQ harassment." Known for its rainbow bad stickers, the program also includes SPDSAFEPLACE.com which is designed as a portal with information about bias crimes and prevention along with tools to help victims report incidents. To be part of the program, participants must pledge to prepare their businesses as safe harbors for victims and train employees.

STATE - LOCAL

• Use Bathroom that Suits You

Transgender customers and employees are welcome to use whichever bathroom suits them at Target, the company said recently. With the announcement, the Minneapolis-based chain walked into the firestorm surrounding the controversial bathroom legislation in North Carolina, which passed a law in March requiring transgender people to use bathrooms and locker rooms in public facilities that correspond with their gender at birth. The legislative movement has spread to a number of other states. In a blog post, Target said "We welcome transgender team members and guests to use the rest room or fitting room facility that corresponds with their gender identity." The move by the retailer, with 49 stores in North Carolina as of Jan. 30, is largely symbolic as the law applies only to facilities in public buildings. A spokeswoman said the company had "received questions from guests and team members, [so] we thought it was important to clearly state our position."

Investors may not agree with Target's inclusive position. In after-hours trading — the news about the policy broke late Tuesday — Target's stock was down about 8 cents, to $83.90.

• Wolf Signs Bill on Spousal Abuse

Gov. Wolf signed HB12 which breaks down barriers for victims of spousal abuse by empowering victims to take control of their divorce proceedings. Currently in Pennsylvania, even in the case of spousal abuse, if one party does not consent to a divorce, the marriage can be drawn out for two years and requires up to three face-to-face counseling sessions before a divorce is finalized. The bill, which passed unanimously in both chambers, does two things: (1) It allows a victim to file for divorce and the law will presume the consent of the other party if they have been convicted of committing a personal injury crime against their spouse. (2) It also allows the victim to object to court mandated divorce counseling if they have a protection from abuse order, were a victim of a personal injury crime, which the other party has been convicted or is in an accelerated rehabilitation disposition program because of their behavior. "Choosing to leave an abusive person is a difficult and dangerous time. HB12 provides an important tool to make this decision safer for victims of domestic violence," said Lori G. Sywensky, Executive Director of the Turning Point of Lehigh Valley. "Abusive partners do not just physically harm their spouses - they also abuse them emotionally and financially. HB12 ensures that the legal system works for victims and not as another tool that allows abusers to continue this abuse. No one should ever be trapped in an abusive relationship because of the sick whims of a manipulative ex," said Representative Mike Schlossberg, the sponsor of the bill. "Simply put, this legislation will make the lives of abused spouses across the commonwealth safer."

LGBT community center coalition

By Louie Marven
Executive Director

Reflections from a young LGBT advocate

"That's so gay!"
"Did you have the surgery yet?"
"Oh, but you don't look like a typical lesbian!"

For many of us who are leaders in the LGBT communities – through a title or through actively taking a role in advancing LGBT progress – we are used to talking about the problems with the above language.

Using our identities as synonyms for "bad" or "stupid" by saying things like "That's so gay!" is part of creating an unsafe space for LGBT students in public schools across the United States, according to GLSEN, which publishes the National School Climate Survey every year.

When someone reveals their transgender identity, it does not make it appropriate to ask private questions about their medical history, as in the question, "Did you have the surgery yet?" Plus, this question wrongly assumes that all transgender people have one singular experience and intention surrounding "surgery."

Sometimes we receive backhanded **comments** when we don't behave in stereotypical ways, as in the exclamation, "Oh, but you don't look like a typical lesbian!" **What is a typical LGBT person? Why is it bad to exhibit characteristics that might rightly or wrongly be associated with the LGBT communities?**

These kinds of subtly offensive comments by someone of a dominant group toward someone of a non-dominant group – oftentimes unintentionally – are increasingly becoming known as "micro-aggressions." And even though LGBT community activists have been working in one way or another against the prevalence of micro-aggressions for several decades, there also exists the idea that pointing out micro-aggressions is new, and somehow indicative of an oversensitive movement of young activists disconnected from more authentic reasons to mobilize.

There is an important truth in this critique: young LGBT advocates have a lot to learn from those who created the movement and developed it to where we are today. There are rich histories that won't get told unless our communities create the space to share those histories, and young people showing up to listen is an essential part of that process.

There are also problems with this critique. While the language of micro-aggressions may be newer to some, it's not a new idea that language is important, and that it is a good thing to use language that does not cause harm to people and communities. And increasingly, researchers in the social sciences are demonstrating that micro-aggressions are related to increased instances of depression, distress, and other health concerns. Writing off concern with micro-aggressions as a less serious insight into advocacy also cuts us off from doing work across other social justice movements.

For those of us who are white queers, while we may experience micro-aggressions related to our sexual orientation, we also have most likely dealt racial micro-aggressions on people of color – including people of color who are part of our LGBT communities.

LGBT people of color experience homophobia, biphobia, and/or transphobia in addition to racism. Recognizing this and considering LGBT people of color experiences are examples of applying an intersectional approach to our work attempting to advance LGBT progress. There are seemingly infinite other ways we can apply an intersectionality to understanding micro-aggressions – by considering micro-aggressions related to gender, class, and ability, just to name a few aspects of identity.

Each of has committed a micro-aggression, and each of us will continue to do so, even if we dedicate our lives to active participation in social justice movements. Even when we bring good intentions to the table, we each possess the human capability of creating a harmful impact. When it's pointed out to us that we've done this, the best we can do is to listen, consider this information a gift, offer a sincere apology, and learn.

Info: www.centralpalgbtcenter.org

When Cultures Clash

ANALYSIS

Montoursville School District Challenged

By Central Voice

"I wanted students to know that they are not alone. That's why I spoke at the school board meeting," Kai Kelly tells *Central Voice* about his April 26 presentation before the Montoursville School District, located in Lycoming County.

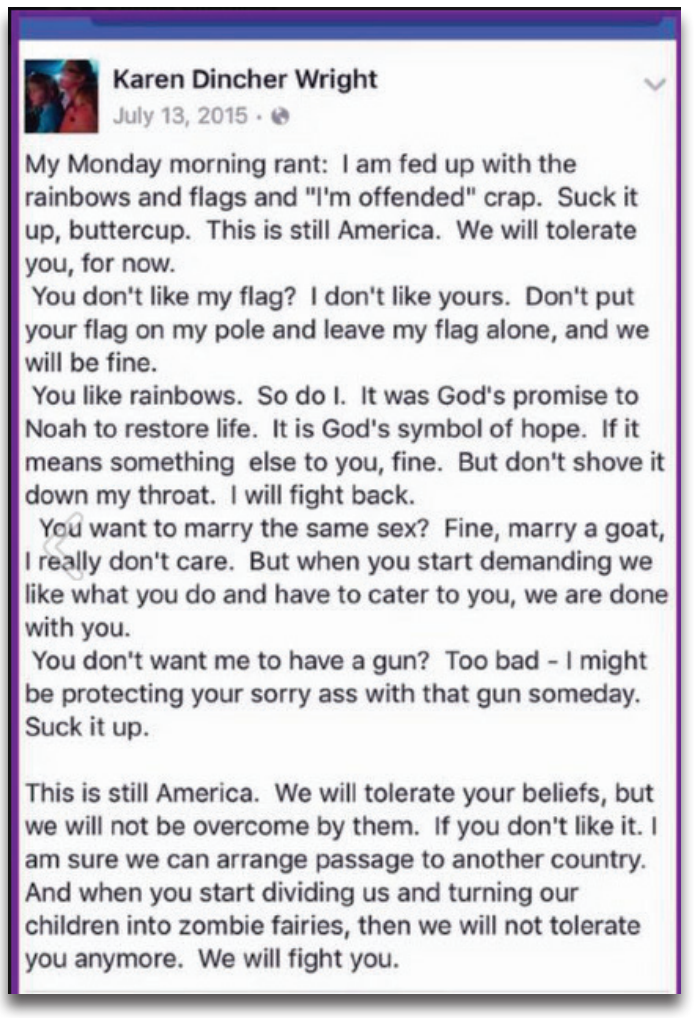
He spoke about LGBT issues. Kelly is a 29-year-old transgender man transitioning from female to male. In others words, he gets it.

As president of The Spectrum Alliance of Williamsport, Kelly was responding to a swirling school district controversy around LGBT issues. The Alliance's mission is to foster safety, respect, and inclusion in the Williamsport community by providing opportunities for discussion and education about matters affected by gender and sexual identity.

What happened?

April 12 Karen Wright was appointed by a 5 to 3 vote to fill a school board vacancy created when a member resigned in opposition to a resolution allowing a construction-renovation project to continue.

About one month before Wright's appointment, the Alliance was contacted by Montoursville Area School District students. According to the organization's web site, the students were concerned about Wright's potential appointment to the school board in light of a July 13, 2015 Facebook post. *(See Facebook graphic).* The online remarks included that she was as an individual "officially against Muslims" and suggested gays would turn children into "zombie fairies."


Karen Dincher Wright
July 13, 2015 ·
My Monday morning rant: I am fed up with the rainbows and flags and "I'm offended" crap. Suck it up, buttercup. This is still America. We will tolerate you, for now.
You don't like my flag? I don't like yours. Don't put your flag on my pole and leave my flag alone, and we will be fine.
You like rainbows. So do I. It was God's promise to Noah to restore life. It is God's symbol of hope. If it means something else to you, fine. But don't shove it down my throat. I will fight back.
You want to marry the same sex? Fine, marry a goat, I really don't care. But when you start demanding we like what you do and have to cater to you, we are done with you.
You don't want me to have a gun? Too bad - I might be protecting your sorry ass with that gun someday. Suck it up.
This is still America. We will tolerate your beliefs, but we will not be overcome by them. If you don't like it. I am sure we can arrange passage to another country. And when you start dividing us and turning our children into zombie fairies, then we will not tolerate you anymore. We will fight you.

According to *The Williamsport Sun-Gazette*, the school board was, prior to Wright's appointment, aware of her Facebook posts containing "racist, xenophobic and/or homophobic posts that Wright had made to Facebook over the past year".

The controversy flared. Some wanted Wright to resign, others did not. The Alliance acted. Besides Kelly, vice president Kristopher Waldrab, and secretary Sarah Logue, also shared with the board their experiences growing up gay.

They did not directly address Wright's appointment. "We wanted to educate not confront," Kelly explained. The organization took no stand on calls for her resignation. As the issue gathered momentum, the Alliance conducted an online survey. Of the 189 respondents, 45, or 24%, supported Wright's appointment.

The Spectrum Alliance of Williamsport Vice President Kristopher Waldrab and President Kai Kelly.

Waldrab, 28, told *Central Voice,"* If I can talk about it, then maybe you'll feel more comfortable talking about it," describing what he hoped to achieve with the audience that night.

"We wanted to give a human face to an event happening in our community," Kelly explained. "Visibility helps us all rely less on labels and more on the person in front of us," he said.

Policy

To be fair to the school district, and to acknowledge an interesting aspect of the controversy, Document 103 available on their web site clearly notes "sexual orientation" as an equal opportunity category. The policy says: "The Board declares it to be the policy of this district to provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs offered in the schools regardless of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin or handicap/disability."

The policy also states: "The district shall provide to all students, without discrimination, course offerings, counseling, assistance, employment, athletics and extracurricular activities. The district shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations."

Twist

Policy aside, there is a twist to the story, a possible backstory.

Wright was appointed after a school director resigned because he did not agree with his colleagues that a construction project should be resurrected and continued. Of the two candidates, Wright appears, at least on a resume, less experienced with education than the other candidate. That said, her perceived lack of experience with educational programs and policies says nothing about her other potential qualities – zeal, a passion for education, and a true desire for public service.

Central Voice asked Kelly and Waldrab their reaction to the school board appointing someone who holds views regarding LGBT students that appear to conflict with existing policy?

Kelly said, "Karen Wright should have never been appointed to a position that oversees any type of student body based on her personal and or religious views". Her also noted that, according to media reports, "other board members clearly read her discriminatory, racist and homophobic posts prior to her appointment and which clearly conflict with their existing policy." Kelly also noted his comments are his "personal opinion" and not that of Spectrum Alliance. As an organization, the goal is to provide educational resources to the community around LGBT issues, not to get snarled up in a local political battle.

Could a local political battle, not knowledge of or adherence to policy, be driving this issue?

Central Voice asked Kelly and Waldrab if perhaps LGBT students were thrown under the bus in order for the school board to appoint someone who would fall in line and vote with the majority on the resurrected construction project?

"It's very possible LGBT students were thrown under the bus in order to put someone on the board that could vote with the majority on the resurrected construction project," Kelly conjectures. He says that "the board meeting seemed mainly focused on the resurrected construction project rather than the possible victimization of students potentially caused by Wright's posts. "Wright favored the project's continuing," Kelly said, again noting his views do not represent Spectrum Alliance.

Waldrab said the appointment was made "to secure a favorable vote for district's controversial construction project." "Unequal" is how he describes the two candidates. "One candidate was involved in the community, had multiple degrees (including a doctorate) and professional experience in revising and implementing institutional policy, and by all recent measures, had the community majority, but opposed the vote of the board majority on the construction project," Waldrab explains.

Kelly says "students were and still are truly scared" over Wright's online comments. "No student should ever feel that way, especially from a school board member," he stresses.

Waldrab says, "the Montoursville Area School Board has shown that they have no regard for the impact their decisions have on LGBT students. Whether intentionally or not, they have endorsed dangerous, hateful, and threatening views by appointing a candidate who publicly announced dangerous, hateful, and threatening views."

The Sun-Gazette reported that Wright said on April 12 that her statements were taken out of context, that she had "no hidden agendas" and simply wanted to "make a difference in the school."

"I am not the person they made me out to be," Wright said, according to T*he Williamsport Sun-Gazette.*

There is progress.

The Alliance is working on LGBT supportive programming they hope will take root in the district. "And by the start of the 2017 school year, we hope to have SAGA (Straight and Gay Alliance) up and running," Waldrab said.

Info: thespectrumalliance.org

LGBT Rights: Obama Decrees, Lawsuits Fly, Casey Endorses, Activists Ramp Up

ANALYSIS

By Central Voice

LGBT civil rights is like a rainbow Rubik's cube. Every twist creates a new image.

In our May-June 2016 issue *Central Voice* asked the question: Can anti-LGBT legislation here?

Now the question is: Will passage of LGBT basic civil rights protections ever happen in Pennsylvania?

Nationwide, there are 50 pieces of anti-transgender specific legislation in 20 states. Nationwide, there are more than 100 anti-LGBT bills in the works. In Pennsylvania, there are no such laws in the works that are known to the public.

The only related Pennsylvania action is a letter sent May 17 by the State Government Committee to President Obama regarding his recommendations to school districts and colleges on the fair treatment of transgender students. Nationwide, 11 states are suing the Obama administration over its directive to U.S. public schools to let transgender students use the bathrooms and locker rooms that match their gender identity. They are Tennessee, Texas, Oklahoma, Alabama, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Maine, Arizona, Louisiana, Utah, and Georgia.

At press time, a Virginia federal appeals court had ruled a transgender high school student born female can sue his school board on discrimination grounds because it banned him from the boys' bathroom.

In 2016, 12 trandgender individuals have been murdered, according to Hayden Maro, co-founder of Trans Fund United, a recently established political action committee.

PA Senators

Pennsylvania's US Senators Pat Toomey, up for re-election, and Robert Casey, both support basic gay civil rights.

June 2 Casey, a Democrat, pledged support for the Equality Act which amends the 1964 Civil Rights Act to include sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation in places of public accommodation. Its scope would extend to public education, public accommodation, employment, housing and any entities that received federal funding.

Toomey, a Lehigh Valley Republican, has a long history of support for LGBT civil rights. In 1996, as an Allentown city council member, he voted in favor of a non-discrimination ordinance, now one of 37 in Pennsylvania. Toomey also voted to end "Don 't Ask, Don't Tell" and in 2013 voted for an unsuccessful federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Recent

More recent developments have fueled a fierce debate.

Following Obama's letter US Attorney General Loretta Lynch on May 9 declared North Carolina's law "in direct opposition to federal laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex and gender identity." If enforced, the law could jeopardize North Carolina's receipt of federal funds. Now there are suits and countersuits filed in all directions with each side challenging the other's legal assumptions.

Vehement challenges to something as routine as using the bathroom places transgender people under the microscope.

"I've heard of transgender people who won't eat or drink before leaving the house because they're afraid" to do so, said Ted Martin, executive director of LGBT advocacy group Equality PA.

About Obama's letter Martin said, "Transgender youth and all transgender people and their families deserve to be treated equally and to have safe and secure access to education. This guidance has the potential to save the lives of students who are far too often excluded from being able to be their authentic selves at school creating extraordinary barriers in their path to success."

Adrian Shanker, Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center executive director said, "For transgender students in schools in the Lehigh Valley, this clarification is welcome news that will help guarantee their right to a safe learning environment in their public school."

Even though transgender issues create headlines, the question remains: Will passage of overall LGBT basic civil rights protections ever happen in Pennsylvania?

With pro-LGBT House/Senate Bill 300 bogged down in the legislature, those measures have been replaced by House Bill 1510 and Senate Bill 974. *(See What Do PA's LGBT Civil Rights Bills Actually Say? below)*

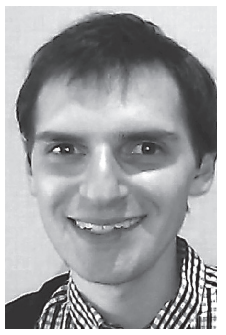
If passed, HB 1510 and SB 974 would amend the state's Human Relations Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. Current state law allows Pennsylvanians to be fired or denied housing and business services solely on the basis of the person being gay or transgender.

Martin encouraged state leaders to follow in Sen. Casey's footsteps. "We can also ban discrimination at the state level in Pennsylvania, and we hope that state leaders will follow Sen. Casey's leadership in co-sponsoring the PA Fairness Act in Harrisburg—and pushing that legislation forward this year."

The Equality Act and the PA Fairness Act both await action in Congress and in the Pennsylvania State Legislature.

PA Activists

Against this backdrop, Jason Landau Goodman, executive director of the Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition, says that's why the organization started the Dignity for All project which provides resources to schools throughout Pennsylvania on supporting transgender and gender expansive students. The Pennsylvania Youth Congress, affiliated with the coalition, created the resources last May.



Goodman

Following the issuance federal guidance issued by the United States Department of Education and Department of Justice, Goodman says, "it became clear Pennsylvania schools needed immediate access to comprehensive resources, guidance, and training specific to the state." The project is the first detailed public resource on supporting transgender students in Pennsylvania public schools.

Transgender issues are not new to the organization.

On the heels of the State House communicating their displeasure with the Obama Administration over transgender protocols, PSEC recently released…news release…

Why now?

"We've been working on transgender guidelines for school districts for more than two years," Goodman says. Many school districts in Pennsylvania, and nationwide, have effectively been dealing with transgender, and LGB issues, along time, he explains.

"With the issue now a national story we wanted to form ally issue guidelines," Goodman says. Neither the Pennsylvania Department of Education or the Pennsylvania School Board Association has indicated they are poised to propose or release similar guidelines.

Regarding Obama's guidelines, Shanker said," We fully expect every Lehigh Valley school district to comply with this guidance. Every student deserves a safe place to learn, free from discrimination based on their gender identity."

(azbove)
Gender neutral bathroom

(left)
Dignity for All banner

What Do PA's LGBT Civil Rights Bills Actually Say?

Pennsylvania House Bill 1510 was introduced by Rep. Dan Frankel, an Allegheny County Democrat, and is supported by local House members Rep. Patty Kim and Rep. Kevin Schreiber.

Pennsylvania Senate Bill 974 was introduced by Sen. Patrick Browne and Sen. Lawrence Farnese, Jr. and is supported by local Sen. Rob Teplitz. Essentially, both measures propose the same amendments to the state's Human Relations Act.

Included

HB 1510 adds the words "sexual orientation, gender identity or expression," to exiting protected classes

Economic development

"Public policies, reflecting an open and welcoming environment and ensuring equal opportunity, foster economic growth and prosperity which benefit the inhabitants of this Commonwealth. Conversely, the absence of nondiscrimination protections hinder efforts to recruit and retain the diversity of talented individuals and successful enterprises required for a thriving economy and strong public sector on which the inhabitants of this Commonwealth depend."

Terms

The term "sexual orientation" means heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality.

The term "gender identity or expression" means the gender-related identity, appearance, mannerisms, expression or other gender-related characteristics of an individual regardless of the individual's designated sex at birth.

Religious exemption

Section 5.4. Protection of Religious Exercise.-- (a) Nothing contained in this act, or in any ordinance, charter, law or regulation that is or has been adopted by any political subdivision in this Commonwealth in accordance with this act, shall be interpreted to:

(1) Prohibit any religious entity from determining the tenets of its faith, or from expressing those tenets, if such prohibition would violate the freedom of speech or free exercise of religion guaranteed to the religious entity by the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

(2) Require any individual or religious entity to engage in conduct prohibited by or inconsistent with the tenets of its faith, if such requirement would violate the free exercise of religion guaranteed to the individual or religious entity by the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

(b) As used in this section, the term "religious entity" means any religious or denominational institution or organization or any charitable or educational organization which is operated, supervised or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization.

HISTORY LESSON:

Activists seize stage at AIDS conference

by Rex Wockner

Montreal – *(story filed June 4, 1989)* To their own astonishment and to the cheers of conference participants, more than 300 members of ACT UP/New York, AIDS Action Now (Toronto) and Réaction SIDA (Montreal) marched into the Palais Des Congrès, commandeered the escalators, entered the main conference site, took over the stage, demanded that the microphones be turned on, and, in the name of persons with AIDS, "officially" opened the Fifth International Conference on AIDS June 4 in Montreal, Quebec.

They remained on the stage for nearly an hour, chanting such things as "History will recall, the conference did nothing at all," "Not victims, not patients, but people living with AIDS," "No more business as usual," "Open the borders," and "None of us has time to wait; get off your butts and demonstrate."

"This conference has now changed international AIDS conferences forever."

Montreal and Royal Canadian Mounted Police seemed unprepared for the rowdy, U.S.-style activism and -- to the surprise of demonstrators -- took no action.

Three hours later, activists were again given free run of the huge conference hall as they relentlessly heckled Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney throughout his 20-minute address to conferees. It was Mulroney's first major statement on AIDS.

When activists first appeared on the scene, up to half of the 10,000 persons awaiting the opening ceremonies clapped and cheered in response to posters and banners stating that governments aren't doing enough about AIDS and that people with AIDS are fighting back.

After half an hour of chanting and stomping by the demonstrators, Toronto activist Tim McCaskell took the main microphone and announced, "On behalf of persons living with AIDS in Canada and around the world, I would like to officially open the Fifth International Conference on AIDS."

He received a standing ovation from some 40 percent of the attendees.

The angry invasion reached its high note when McCaskell, referring to the disruption, declared, "This conference has now changed international AIDS conferences forever."

A lengthy "Manifesto of Montreal" was then read in French and English. Activists demanded, among much else, reclassification of HIV disease as a chronic, manageable condition; enactment of an international code of rights for people with HIV disease; development of an international data bank of AIDS information; an end to placebo drug trials; abortion rights; medical aid to poor nations; and worldwide diversion of military money to health-related projects.

By the time activists vacated the stage and conference planners regained control of the room, the opening ceremonies were running more than an hour behind schedule.

Photo by Rex Wockner

Want to Go to a Local Rodeo?

By Central Voice

Keystone State Gay Rodeo Association president Adam Romanik, left, and treasurer Mitchell Nancekivell.

"We're going to have a lot of fun," beams Romanik.

Plans are underway for the Keystone State Gay Rodeo the weekend of June 23-25, 2017. The association is a newly formed non-profit organization that supports and encourages a country lifestyle and rodeo type events.

Talks are in progress to hold the event at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex. Nearby hotels will serve as Host Hotels. The association is also planning for rodeo-related vendors.

"We'll have a big dance right there at the Farm Show Complex on the Saturday night of the weekend," Romanik says, full of enthusiasm for the event he's helping to plan.

In the meantime, Romanik and his committee are raising funds to seed the event. "We're holding spaghetti dinners at Metropolitan Community Church, Harrisburg, to raise some initial funds," he explains.

August 20 there is a fundraising event at 704 Bar in Harrisburg where "the Rodeo Royalty will appear" Romanik says. The organization will also host trail rides, a horse show and a barn dance later this fall as fundraising events.

Attendees will have the opportunity to buy a Weekend Pass to the entire event. "We're hoping to keep the Weekend Pass to about $30. We think that's a great deal for everything that we will offer," Romanik says. The event will host about 30 contestants in various rodeo competitions.

Info: http://ksgra.org

Christian Arab Wins Israel's Transgender Beauty Pageant

Taleen Abu Hanna won Israel's first transgender beauty pageant June 3. The contest brought together contestants from the Holy Land's main faiths in an unconventional show of tolerance and coexistence. Organizers have described Hanna as an ethnic "mosaic".

The 12 vying for the Miss Trans Israel 2016 crown included a Jewish confectioner from an Orthodox Jerusalem family, a Muslim belly-dancer from Tel Aviv and a Christian ballerina from Nazareth.

Previously Hanna won the Miss Trans Star International pageant in Barcelona last September. "Our country deserves to come out on top," Abu Hanna, 21, told journalists. "Our country allowed me, a Christian Arab from Nazareth, to end the war between my soul and my body. So if it made peace for me, our country is only a country of peace."

TV Reporter Takes the High Road

Raw Story reports that An Arkansas TV reporter shared an email he got from a viewer who doesn't think gay people should be allowed to report broadcast news — and he responded with tact and grace.

Mitchell McCoy, a reporter for KARK-TV, shared the angry email Monday afternoon on his Twitter account, and he shared an inspirational message about his own career.

The viewer, who signed the email as "kark Channel 4 fan," complained about McCoy's "gayness" and demanded he be removed from the airwaves.

"I've been holding back for months but I can't stand your gayness," the viewer complained. "Our children should not be watching people like you. You are a disgrace to Arkansas and I will be asking your boss to take you off."

The viewer ended the rant with something like a conciliatory gesture and blamed his or her homophobic views on other people.

"Do not be offended (but) society is not ready for gay men reading the news," the viewer said.

McCoy expressed shock at the viewer's email — and he urged others to follow their dreams.

"I get many emails but this tops it," McCoy said. "I've dreamt of being a reporter since I was 9 and I won't stop on your behalf."

"No matter who you are or what you believe in — dream loudly and don't let anyone get in your way," McCoy continued. "The minute you stop is the minute you stop being who you are. It's not worth it. #DreamOn #StepUpStopBullying"

McCoy's boss expressed support for the reporter, and it doesn't sound like he'll be taken off the air to placate the angry viewer.

Looking for a fun, new adventure?

TRY THREE AMAZING LGBT-FRIENDLY LOCATIONS & MINGLE WITH LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE!

LIVERPOOL XXX THEATER

RIVER'S EDGE

HOBBEZE INC.

LIVERPOOL XXX THEATER

Check out our newly renovated, intimate surroundings!

Our friendly, knowledgeable & experienced staff offer complete discretion.

Featuring: newest technology multi-channel peep shows, comfortable & private three-screen theater & retail store

www.LiverpoolXXXTheater.com

(717) 444-0066
2901 SUSQUEHANNA TRAIL
LIVERPOOL, PA 17045

RIVER'S EDGE PRIVATE MEMBERS CLUB

The area's most exclusive private "all lifestyle" swing club, adult theater & adult bookstore—under one roof!

www.RiversEdgeMensClubLLC.com

(717) 856-5300
19 BENVENUE ROAD
DUNCANNON, PA 17020

HOBBEZE INC.

ADULT MOVIE THEATER & LAP DANCE LOUNGE

Central PA's biggest complex!

Retail store features: novelties, adult toys, dvd's, costumes & outfits for all, male enhancement supplements, lubes & lotions + more!

Enjoy an all-natural tanning experience at our fully enclosed, private sundeck oasis!

www.HobbezeInc.xxx

(717) 273-6398
1602-1604 EAST CUMBERLAND STREET
LEBANON, PA 17042

FOLLOW ALL 3 ON FACEBOOK FOR DAILY UPDATES!

PARKING IS ALWAYS FREE + ALL OF OUR LOCATIONS HAVE TRACTOR TRAILER PARKING

COLOR

RMA of Central Pennsylvania at PinnacleHealth | PINNACLEHEALTH

Highly Personalized Fertility Care

- Internationally Recognized
- High Success Rates
- Scientific Innovation

www.RMAspecialists.com • 1-855-RMA-inPA (762-4672)